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Payoffs to Deri 'good investment,' key witness claims

EVELYN GORDON

THE managers of a non-profit organization regularly paid bribes to former interior minister Aryeh Deri, because it was a "good investment," the key prosecution witness in Deri's trial said yesterday.

Ya'acov Shmuelovitz replaced Deri as administrative director of the Lev Banim yeshiva in 1985, and much of the indictment against Deri and his three colleagues - Yom Tov Rubin and Aryeh and Moshe Weinberg - is based on Shmuelovitz's information. Shmuelovitz agreed to testify for the prosecution in return for immunity from prosecution.

The other four are on trial in Jerusalem District Court. Deri is charged with bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust, and falsifying corporate documents.

Shmuelovitz testified that Rubin was treasurer of the yeshiva; Aryeh Weinberg ran the kolk; and Moshe, his son, was essentially a manager without portfolio, Shmuelovitz said.

From these three, Shmuelovitz said, he learned that the yeshiva had an accumulated debt of \$400,000-\$600,000, and it survived by constantly borrowing.

He said he often overheard Rubin on the phone with Deri. From Rubin's side of the conversation, he said, it was clear that Deri "was asking [Rubin] to deposit money in [Deri's] private account."

Messages Deri left for Rubin sometimes contained instructions to deposit money in his account or to give it to his wife, Shmuelovitz said.

"[Aryeh Weinberg] explained that [the payments] were worth it to them, because [Deri] could help Lev Banim ... clear its debts," Shmuelovitz said. "They spoke of the possibility that [Deri] would help them get government funding."

The requests came several times a month, he said, and they were for sizable sums.

"This was logical," he said, "because [Rubin] would call [when Deri called]. A small sum wouldn't have fazed him."

Once, he added, a deposit form made out to Deri's account at the North American Bank appeared on his desk, and Aryeh Weinberg told him: "This shouldn't be lying about. It's dangerous."

There was never any indication that these payments might be for

debts owed Deri by either the yeshiva or its managers personally, he said.

Deri did come through, Shmuelovitz said: When he called Deri one day and told him the yeshiva was on the brink of disaster, Deri showed up that night with a loan worth several hundred thousand shekels, obtained from either Shas or one of its non-profit organizations. However, the bulk of this loan had to be returned before the 1988 elections, Shmuelovitz said, though Deri promised to find government funds for Lev Banim.

In late 1986, the five decided to set up a new organization, the Center for Prisoner Rehabilitation, with Shmuelovitz as its chairman.

"There was real activity at the center, but the main purpose was to solve Lev Banim's debt problem," Shmuelovitz said.

The center repaid fictitious debts to Lev Banim with the government funds it obtained. This tactic was discussed at several meetings which Deri attended, he said.

Lev Banim also sold its building to the center for NIS 480,000, using two grants Deri had arranged from the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality.

However, Shmuelovitz said, Lev Banim did not, and never intended to, move out of the building - which, according to the yeshiva's lawyer, made the deal fictitious.

Shmuelovitz said the idea of the sale came from Aryeh Weinberg, and that Deri had favored consulting a lawyer to see if it was legal. This, pointed out Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, contradicted Shmuelovitz's statement to the police four years ago, in which he said the idea was Deri's.

However, Shmuelovitz stood by his statement that after the lawyer said it would be criminal to sell the building and not leave, all five agreed to do it anyway.

The courtroom, meanwhile, was packed with Shas supporters, one of whom, according to both Shmuelovitz and one of the prosecution lawyers, threatened Shmuelovitz during the break. Judges Ya'acov Tzemah, Miriam Naor, and Moussa Arad ordered lead prosecutor Yehoshua Resnick to ensure that police investigated the threats.

High Court holds up Shmuelovitz deportation, Page 12

Father of two stabbed to death in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

A TAXI driver was fatally stabbed in north Jerusalem yesterday, apparently by two terrorists who, police said, tricked their way into the cab by disguising themselves as Jews.

Rafi Cohen, 35, was found by a driver on the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim Road, just past the Pisgat Ze'ev turn-off. He was slouched in the driver's seat with multiple stab wounds in his head and chest.

After getting into the cab and driving a while, the attackers apparently ordered Cohen to pull over and grabbed him around the neck with their bare hands before stabbing him, police said. There were no signs of a struggle.

Magen David Adom medics tried unsuccessfully to treat Cohen, who was declared dead on the way to the hospital. The large, blood-stained kitchen knife used in the attack was found in a gully near the taxi.

"We had no intelligence information pointing to the prospects of an attack of this kind," said Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz. He said security forces have been bracing for larger attack in the center of the country.

"This is the kind of attack that is common during the Ramadan period," Hefetz said, noting that police were expecting terror attempts this week, which on the Muslim calendar marks the first anniversary of the Machpela Cave massacre.



A policeman cordons off the area around Rafi Cohen's taxi yesterday.

(Brian Hendler)

Sixteen Arabs were detained immediately after the attack, as police and soldiers, aided by a helicopter and dogs, searched for the terrorists. Only two remained in custody last night, and neither was believed directly involved.

Cohen, a father of two from Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood, radioed his dispatcher just before 9 a.m., that he was picking up a fare headed to Ma'aleh Adumim. He was not heard from again.

"I was driving towards the [area under] closure, but didn't know whether to stop," said Yitz-

hak Dahan, among the drivers who spotted Cohen's taxi on the side of the road.

"I saw someone with black jeans and a black coat, curly hair, running away," Dahan said. Several drivers used portable phones to contact the police. Others reported what they had seen to a passing Border Police patrol and soldiers stationed at the nearby A-Zayim checkpoint.

Investigators believe two (Continued on Page 2)

'No choice but to keep working'

BILL HUTMAN

"I HEARD the radio reports about a taxi driver being attacked, but I did not connect it with Rafi," said Moshe Mizrahi, the dispatcher at Hatayel Taxi Station in East Talpiot, where Rafi Cohen worked. Just before 9 a.m., Cohen had radioed Mizrahi, saying he was going to Ma'aleh Adumim with a fare. Half an hour later, he was found fatally stabbed in his cab.

Mizrahi said he only found out Cohen was the victim when Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Aryeh Amit called to inquire about Cohen. The 38-year-old dispatcher gave police the few details he knew about (Continued on Page 2)

US flags greet Marianne Gingrich in Ma'aleh Adumim

HERB KEINON

MARIANNE Gingrich, wife of US House Speaker Newt Gingrich, has raised eyebrows and conflict-of-interest charges because of her high-profile position scouting clients for the Free Export Processing Zone (FEPZ).

On a visit to Ma'aleh Adumim yesterday, she said she does not believe her visit across the Green Line will place her husband in an embarrassing position, or open him up to conflict-of-interest charges. Gingrich is the vice president for business development of the Israel Export Development Co., and her job is to recruit investors.

"This is not a conflict of interest," she said. "I'm just doing business, seeing what's going on in the country. I'm doing business with businesses."

The IEDC is trying to gain government approval to run the FEPZ, a private, high-tech industrial park where companies can operate free of most taxes and government bureaucracy. The job has left Gingrich open to charges that she is being used to help the IEDC gain favor with the Israeli government.

She said she came to Ma'aleh Adumim because she was invited. "I wanted to see it. This is the second time I've been across the Green Line. I have written the mayor and wanted to see the city," she said.

David Yerushalmi, IEDC chairman and CEO, said there is no political significance to the visit. He said that Gingrich is visiting the country so that she can go back to potential investors and "explain what Israel is."

He said that she was taken to Ma'aleh Adumim, just as she was taken to Beersheba, to see that Israel is not only Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

Gingrich was met at the entrance to the city by Mayor Benny Kashriel, who gave her a brief description of the city. She then toured the community of 20,000. American and Israeli flags were hung at the city entrance and along several streets in her honor.

Bill repealing capital gains tax goes to Finance C'tee

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday approved in first reading a bill to cancel the stock market tax, by a vote of 40-7.

Six Likud MKs voted with the coalition to repeal the tax, while the rest of the opposition left the room to avoid voting with the government. Five Meretz MKs voted against repeal.

The bill will now go to the Finance Committee, and then back to the plenum for a second and third reading.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's opening speech was interrupted by repeated calls for his resignation from former coalition chairman Eli Dayan (Labor), which were echoed by some of the opposition MKs.

"Mr. Speaker, when a minister supports a taxation law, if the government doesn't accept his opinion, and the citizens have lost millions [as a result of the market's fall after the tax was announced], shouldn't he resign?" Dayan demanded.

"You cannot be finance minister a minute longer," he repeated during his speech. "Who will believe in you any more?"

Shohat largely ignored Dayan's catcalls, reiterating that he considers the tax to be just, but that political pressure and the co-incidental fall of the market made its repeal necessary.

Rabin: There's no such thing as 'kill verification'

LIAT COLLINS and ALON PINKAS

THERE is no "kill verification" procedure in the IDF, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the press at the Labor faction meeting in the Knesset yesterday.

"There is no such thing as kill verification, on the contrary. There are clear rules that in an encounter with terrorists, or in war, first [the soldiers] should attack with the intention of killing the terrorists. When they are returning from an encounter and something moves, they have the right to shoot it. This is a matter of defending their lives."

"They must have the right to shoot at something that moves, but not [to shoot] after the event is over," Rabin said. "I'm not prepared to put restrictions on the defense forces when these will endanger soldiers' lives."

Rabin said in the widely publicized case of Maj. Kawan Hamad, who some soldiers claim was killed during a "kill verification," was no exception, "but if there was an exception it will be dealt with."

Meanwhile, former chief of

general staff Moshe Levy, appointed last week to investigate the circumstances of the Hamad's death, is likely to submit his findings to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak this week, army sources said.

Ha'aretz yesterday sent a letter to Levy asking him to make details of his investigation public, saying that the issues to be examined have already been widely debated in the media.

"Conducting an open investigation is necessary for the appearance of justice being done," the letter said.

Levy yesterday met with OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, to hear his version of what Hamad's family was told about of their son's death.

According to the local Haifa newspaper Kol-Bo, Levine said that the family was told their son was killed by Hizbullah fire. Levine is quoted as saying that the "Druse faith is problematic," and therefore the family was not given all the details of Hamad's death.



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'PA realizes that it must take steps to curb terror for closure to end'

THE Palestinian Authority now realizes it must take specific steps to curb terrorism as a condition for the lifting of the closure of the territories, a senior Clinton administration official indicated last night.

He said that the upshot of the joint communiqué issued after Sunday's meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and the US is that the linkage that Israel has insisted upon — security measures before the lifting of the closure — has now won the imprimatur of Washington. It has also been accepted, albeit very grudgingly, by the Arabs, he said.

At the same time, the parley made it clear that Israel has committed itself to lifting the closure once the PA takes the needed steps, the official said.

DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER

"The Palestinians probably would have liked it otherwise, but they realize that there is a political reality," a senior administration official said.

"A sequence now exists, and [PLO Chairman Yasser] Arafat explicitly approved the communiqué's language. But this communiqué is more than just a declaration of intent, or pointing toward a general direction. For the closure to be lifted, there is now a set structure that the Palestinians have to follow.

"The structure for the Palestinians to follow is clear — no safe haven for terrorists, making arrests, following through with prosecutions, regular [security] cooperation with Israel, and language that reflects the seriousness that we have started to see in the last few days.

"It will be visible when Arafat is serious," he added. "Therefore Israel will know when to lift the closure. We don't expect 100 percent success, but we do expect 100 percent effort."

Both US and Israeli officials insisted that there is no timetable for lifting the closure, and that everything depends upon the PA's effort to curb terrorism.

Senior Israeli officials believe that the Palestinians were more flexible because they were concerned Congress might cut off funding for the PA unless it cracks down on terror.

Another senior administration

official said that Sunday's foreign ministers' meeting was "a great day" because it gave the two key parties — Israel and the Palestinians — what they need to move negotiations forward.

After Israel obtained the Palestinians' reaffirmation of their commitment to fight terrorism, the Palestinians "walked out of here elated" because the US lent the "high-level involvement" of President Bill Clinton to the proceedings, the official said.

Lamia Lahoud adds: PA officials believe the ministerial summit in Washington may lead to a breakthrough in the upcoming meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Arafat.

According to Nabil Abu Ru-

deineh, an Arafat spokesman, the American and Egyptian involvement is keeping the spirit of the Oslo agreement alive. A PA official said Rabin and Arafat discussed the implementation of the Oslo agreement and ways of redeployment in their meeting last Thursday, but Rabin insisted that Arafat first deliver certain specific security guarantees.

The official said the Israelis were not satisfied with arrests and the establishment of the special security court.

He said Rabin wanted to see concrete actions, like trials of those involved in attacks against Israelis.

The official said there is evidence against some of those who have been arrested, and that it was likely some cases will be brought to the new court soon.



Rabbi Menahem Felix, the father of terror victim Ofra Felix, outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. (Yehuda Miller)

Ofra Felix's father starts hunger strike

HERB KEINON

RABBI Menahem Felix, the father of Ofra Felix, who was killed by terrorists last month north of Beit El, began an open-ended hunger strike in front of the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Felix, a resident of Eilon Moreh and one of the founders of Gush Emunim, said the purpose of his hunger strike is to "get other people to join with me in the hope that we will get the government to stop this murderous [peace] process."

Felix said he has no illusions that his hunger strike would move Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, since several hunger strikes over the past two years

have failed. But, he said, if this type of protest occurs repeatedly, it may have cumulative impact. Felix said that in addition to trying to pressure the government, the strike is also meant to keep the "government's failures" in the public's eye.

"I am not here just as Ofra's father," Felix said. "I'm here so there will be no more Ofras." In 1993, Felix led a vigil in front of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's home that lasted for a number of weeks, to protest Shas's joining the coalition.

Meanwhile, hikers yesterday found the body of Felix's boy, Ofra, an apparent suicide, in the channel of Nahal Mishmar near Tiv-Gedi.

New scheme to populate territories launched

HERB KEINON

THE Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza has recently embarked on a campaign to sell apartments in settlements to Jews abroad.

The buyers would then rent them to Israelis who want to move into the areas, but either can't afford the apartments or are wary of risking their money.

Council spokesman Yehiel Leiter said "a couple of dozen" of apartments have been sold in the US and Europe, and that the council is continuing to market the apartments. Another council spokesman, Aharon Domb, is now pushing the idea on a fund-raising trip in France.

Leiter said that the Diaspora Jews are being asked to invest in, rather than donate to, the country. He said the apartments, which in most cases have been turned over to various local councils by the Housing Ministry, have not been hooked up to wa-

ter and electricity, and that the investors are asked to pay for the hookups.

"These people are investing in the country just as people did in the 1930s and '40s," said Leiter.

He dismissed the notion that the investment is risky, because the future of the settlements is uncertain.

Leiter would not say where the apartments are located, saying only they are not in areas like "Greater Jerusalem."

The Housing Ministry, he said, has not made apartments it owns in the territories available for rental. Moreover, mortgage terms in most settlements are no better than elsewhere in the country, some people who want to buy the apartments can't afford to, he said.

Selling the apartments to Diaspora Jews, then renting them, is one way of solving the problem, he said.

One dead, 45 hurt in collision

DAVID RUDGE and Him

A MOTORIST was killed and 45 other people — most of them youngsters — were injured in a head-on crash between a van and a bus on the old Haifa-Hadera road, north of the Or Adva turn-off, yesterday morning.

The dead man was identified as the van driver, Tahs Sa'ad, 39, from the village of Abu Suan in the Galilee. A passenger in the van was badly hurt. The rest of those injured were mainly schoolchildren on board the private bus traveling north from Hadera.

A fleet of Magen David Adom

ambulances took the injured to Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera. The majority were released after treatment for shock, cuts and bruises.

Police said it appeared the accident occurred when the van driver veered out of his lane and into the path of the oncoming bus.

In other accidents, a pedestrian was struck and killed near Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin while crossing the road last night.

A 12-year-old boy was seriously injured when he was struck by a truck while riding his bicycle in Kiryat Haroshet, south of Haifa.

Maps and separation plans will be presented today

MAPS and detailed plans compiled by the army and police to prevent Palestinians from infiltrating into Israel are to be presented today to the "separation committee" headed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

Committee sources said that few surprises are expected. The plans are based largely on the use of a specially equipped police

force to patrol the border between Israel and Judea and Samaria, the sources said.

Fences will only be used in areas where the two populations live in close proximity, mainly in the center of the country, the sources said.

The plan was first drawn up over a year ago, and updated after the Beit Lid attack and the

BILL HUTMAN

government's establishment of the separation committee.

The major addition to the original plan is the request to beef up police and General Security Service intelligence operations in eastern Jerusalem. Police are

sensitive to the importance of not making it appear that the city was being divided by setting up roadblocks or fences, the sources said.

Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz is scheduled to personally present the plan to the committee.

General discussions during the committee's initial meetings showed that there were few differences between the army and

police regarding on how best to prevent Palestinians from illegally entering the country, the sources said.

Shahal told the Jerusalem Post yesterday that today's meeting is "critical for the committee," and would determine the final report to be presented to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin next month. He would not elaborate.

Separate elections for PA council and chairman

JON IMMANUEL

THE heads of the committee negotiating the Palestinian elections, Saeb Erekat and Yoel Singer, met for the first time in Jericho yesterday to prepare the ground for next week's two-day session in Cairo.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Gonen Segev and Palestinian Economics Minister Ahmed Qreia agreed that gasoline will be brought from Israel to the collection point at the Erez checkpoint, and that another collection point will be established at Nahal Oz within 10 days.

Singer, legal counsel to the Foreign Ministry, announced that "each voter will vote on two ballots — one for the members of the council and one for the head of the council."

This decision was actually made at an earlier meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Arafat wants the direct elec-

tion as a mandate for his personal leadership.

Singer and Erekat met for two hours.

The main issues — the size and legislative powers of the proposed council, and the participation of groups like Hamas, that are opposed to the Oslo agreement — are still nowhere near resolution.

Erekat said "ideological differences" will not be a barrier to participation. Singer did not deny this, but said that "terrorism" would be.

"The main thing was he came, I met him at the entrance to Jericho. He was our guest," Erekat said. "We hope in Cairo, we will start drafting an agreement on international [election] observers."

Erekat showed Singer a batch of stolen Israeli cars, which had been rounded up and were ready to be returned. It was the sixth batch rounded up by the PA.

Amal gunman killed; fighting inside and beyond security zone

DAVID RUDGE

AN AMAL gunman was killed and at least one other wounded during heavy fighting in and north of the security zone yesterday.

The exchanges, sparked by separate attacks on South Lebanese Army and IDF targets in the zone's central sector, came after rallies in Lebanon to mark the anniversaries of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the killing by IAF helicopter gunships of former Hizbullah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in the exchanges, which broke a lull in the fighting in south Lebanon.

Hizbullah leaders stressed at the rallies, however, that the fight against Israel would continue with the "support and backing of both Teheran and Damascus."

"Hizbullah, the Islamic Jihad and Hamas all enjoy the backing of Teheran and Damascus, but

they receive orders from neither. The resistance in Lebanon and Palestine has its origins in Islam and faith," declared Hizbullah's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, at the main ceremony in Beirut over the weekend.

"The US doesn't understand that they can't get rid of us by putting pressure on Iran and Syria. They can only do that if they break our [unbreakable] convictions," he said.

Hizbullah, in fact, claimed responsibility for the first attack inside the security zone early yesterday morning, when gunmen opened fire with mortars and machine guns on IDF and SLA positions in the Talousa area. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Later in the day, a roadside bomb was detonated alongside

SLA troops, not far from Kantara village, also in the zone's central sector. Simultaneously, IDF and SLA positions in the area came under fire.

There were no casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners blasted suspected terrorist targets in the region and north of the zone. Lebanese radio stations reported that the Amal official was killed and another wounded in these exchanges, although it was not clear whether Amal or Hizbullah was responsible for the bomb attack and the long-range shooting.

The reports said at least three homes were damaged in Kabriha village, north of the zone, as a result of SLA and IDF retaliatory shelling.

The fighting continued in the Soujoud region, in the eastern sector of the zone, in the afternoon, amid reports from Lebanon of IAF helicopter gunships in action on Sunday night and yesterday.

Rabin's planned private dinner for ministers ruffles some feathers

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Leah Rabin hosted the Labor Party ministers and their spouses for dinner at their official residence in Jerusalem last night, in an apparent attempt to ease the tensions among the oft-warring cabinet members.

The dinner was scheduled to be held two weeks ago, but was postponed because that date marked the end of the shiva for the Beit Lid bombing victims.

Not all the ministers were enthusiastic about the "let's-be-friends" agenda.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who has recently been under fire from many of his colleagues, doubted that "shaking hands and smiling at each other

will make everything nice again and make all the problems go away. Life isn't as simple as all that. But I am looking forward to the food. That is the main item on the menu."

Many of the ministers noted Leah Rabin's reputation for gourmet cooking, and wondered how much of what they would be served would originate in her kitchen and how much would be catered.

But in the attempt to make the ministers feel better about each other, some feelings were hurt.

The original invitations went out to the entire Labor minister-

al forum, in which party secretary-general Nissim Zivili and Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket also participate.

But on Sunday night, Leket and Zivili received a call from Rabin's bureau chief Eitan Haber, who told them to stay home, as it had been decided that ministers only would attend.

Zivili's companion Huguette El Hadad was deeply offended. She told radio interviewers that this "was a stinging slap in the face, especially as it was to be a get-together that would bring us all closer to each other. Canceling an invitation so abruptly, less than 24 hours before the event, flouts the very basics of elementary etiquette."

Leah Rabin denies complaint about 'stinking Netanyahu'

HELEN KAYE

LEAH Rabin, wife of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday again denied that she had referred to Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu as "that stinking Netanyahu" in a phone call to media personality Dan Shilon.

Details of Mrs. Rabin's alleged remarks emerged at a recent Channel 2 public council meeting as an example of what Shilon termed the politicians' interference in the work of Channel 2.

Mrs. Rabin, he said, called his

car phone following an interview he did with Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and scolded Shilon for daring to suggest that the government was cut off from the people.

Shilon suggested that she study the polls or go out and listen to what people are saying on the street.

"Polls are nonsense," she re-

portedly replied. "You don't know what you're talking about, and your program will cause that stinking Netanyahu to come to power."

Mrs. Rabin, in an interview with Army Radio, did not deny that she called Shilon or that she was angered by the expression that "the government is cut off from the people." But she insisted that she never used the word "stinking," saying "I don't use such words."

Police apparently won't recommend prosecuting Segev

BILL HUTMAN

THE police file on alleged financial wrongdoings by Energy Minister Gonen Segev was transferred yesterday to the state attorney, apparently with a recommendation not to press charges.

Police sources said investiga-

tors found no evidence backing up allegations that Segev took bribes to fake Holocaust survivors' referrals to the Tiberias Hot Springs, where their treatment is paid for by the German

government.

The police spokesman would only confirm that the file was transferred.

The final decision on whether to file charges will be made by the State Attorney's Office.

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Ministry to okay homeopathic medicines

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry will prepare a list of ready-made homeopathic medicines that may be imported or manufactured here under ministry supervision and quality control.

Until now, only raw materials for homeopathic remedies could be imported, and certain pharmacists prepared the finished products by diluting them.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said yesterday that his decision gives legitimacy to remedies that "in any case are being offered" here. As before, only physicians will be allowed to prescribe homeopathic treatments "in order to prevent non-professional and unauthorized people" from dealing in homeopathy, he said.

However, it is commonly known that people without formal medical training who call themselves homeopaths send patients to pharmacies to fill their "prescriptions." Because there is no legislation stipulating what a homeopath is, some pharmacies sell customers these remedies.

Homeopathic medicines are based on the idea that the same things that cause disease can, in extremely diluted solutions, cure the same disorders. Homeopathic medicines are widely accepted in many parts of Western Europe and are covered by health insurers.

A recent scientific conference on homeopathy held at Hadassah-University Hospital on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus heard reports of a number of successes in treating disease.

Yehudit Amur, chairman of the homeopathic committee of the Israel Pharmacists Association, said yesterday that some \$2 million in homeopathic drugs are sold each year. As a result of the ministry's new policy, this market will quintuple, she said.

"It seems the ministry has finally understood the paradox between the growing demand for these medications and the ban on importing them," she said.

Batya Haran, acting head of the ministry's pharmaceutical division, said the imported remedies would state the contents but not indicate what they treat. They would not be included in the lists of medications that health funds are obliged to provide their members, she said, but the insurers could decide to supply them at a nominal cost.

Amnon Ozeransky, a pharmacist who owns the Oplatka homeopathic pharmacy on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road, welcomed the minister's decision. "I'm happy this will introduce order into the homeopathic medication business. Now we'll be able to import prepared remedies from internationally recognized manufacturers," he said.

Ozeransky said that 40 percent of his drug sales are homeopathic medicines, which are cheaper than conventional ones but cost customers more because they are not subsidized by the health funds. "If the public demands that the health funds cover the cost of homeopathic medicines, I am sure they will do so," he said.

Kessar gives green light to TA-Kfar Sava urban train

HAIM SHAPIRO

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday gave the okay for planning to begin on the Tel Aviv-Petah Tikva-Kfar Sava suburban railway, and said that actual work should begin within eight months.

According to Kessar, the line to Petah Tikva will take three years to build, and the line to Kfar Sava should be finished within two years after that.

Shoshana Lerer, director-general of the Ports and Railways Authority, which is responsible for the project, said the greatest problem for the new system is acquiring right of way from the local authorities.

Kessar promised to talk with

Shahal: No way to keep Russian Mafia out of Israel

BATSHEVA TSUR

THERE is no legal way to prevent the so-called Russian Mafia from holding meetings here if its members do not break any laws, and such a meeting was indeed held, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday.

The meeting was held around two months ago in Tel Aviv.

However, an attempt to hold a second such gathering was halted when the plans became public knowledge, Shahal said. The organizers decided against it, apparently fearing they would come under scrutiny.

Shahal stressed, however, that there was no connection between the Russian Mafia and the new immigrants from Russia or other parts of the CIS. There is no organized crime among the immigrants, Shahal said, although the Russian Mafia, an international network, also has Israeli elements.

"That is because it is relatively easy to launder money in Israel and there are relatively few passport restrictions here," he said.

Shahal said he had approached the Justice Ministry to make it mandatory for Israeli citizens with dual citizenship to leave and return to the country on an Israeli passport, so that there would be more restrictions on crime.

Shahal was speaking after meeting Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban to discuss the stigma attached to new immigrants regarding criminal activity.

They also discussed means of improving communications between the police and the new immigrant population, many of whom come from countries where the police have a negative image. A Russian-speaking former Ethiopian police officer has been appointed adviser on immigrant affairs, they said.



Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban (left) makes a point to Police Minister Moshe Shahal (center) and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz yesterday, during a discussion at which he warned against attaching a stigma to new immigrants regarding criminal activity. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

The immigrants are some 11% of the population but are responsible for only some 9% of the crimes committed, Tzaban said. "We must distinguish between immigrants who commit crimes and criminals who disguise themselves as immigrants," Tzaban said. "Normally, the shock of migration leads to a rise in crime, but these immigrants are of such high quality that their crime rate is lower than the national average."

Tzaban urged the public not to repeat the mistakes of the 1950s. He said the immigrants must be given housing and employment, "but above all, we must show them respect."

12 lung recipients heave sigh of relief

JUDY SIEGEL

HADASSAH-University Hospital boasts an 80 percent success rate for its lung transplants, which cost only \$40,000, compared to \$200,000 in Europe and \$600,000 to \$800,000 in the United States. But although 40 Israelis need lung transplants each year, only three or four are performed because of the acute shortage of donor organs.

The need for donated organs was highlighted at the first-ever gathering of lung-transplant recipients, held at the Jerusalem-Ein Karem hospital yesterday. It was attended by 12 patients, including seven who underwent the surgery at Hadassah; Prof. Gideon Merin, head of the cardiothoracic surgery department, who performed many of the operations; and nurses and other hospital staffers.

The event marked the second anniversary of the heart-lung transplant performed on Rajja Habiballa Sultan, a mother of 10 from the village of Ein Mahel near Nazareth. She is the only Israeli to have undergone the double operation here.

"I never thought I'd live to see this day," said Etti Mazor, whose heavy smoking led to emphysema and destroyed her lungs. "All of us have gone through so much suffering that we can now appreciate the word 'alive.'"

Eli Mor, another lung recipient, invited any transplant patient who wanted a vacation to spend it in a two-room flat in the country that he was putting at their disposal.

Dr. Mordechai Kramer, transplant coordinator at Hadassah's Lung Institute, noted that half of all the patients needing a transplant die while waiting for a lung.

"Families don't donate organs because of conservatism or superstition, but there is no greater *mitzvah*," he said. Among the diseases for which a transplant is appropriate are cystic fibrosis, smoking-related emphysema, asbestosis and pulmonary fibrosis.



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Germany marks 50th anniversary of Dresden destruction.

GERMANY yesterday marked the 50th anniversary of the air raids and the resulting firestorm that leveled most of the baroque city of Dresden and killed about 35,000 people.

Several hundred Dresdners – many of them survivors – walked quietly to a wooded cemetery where the dead are buried. They placed flowers at a marble monument that bears the inscription: "How many died, no one knows for sure."

Also paying respects at the cemetery, and at a later commemoration in the Dresden Cultural Palace, were the Duke of Kent, who is a cousin of the British queen, and other German, British and American dignitaries.

German President Roman Herzog reminded his audience that the Nazi regime brought suffering to the Germans as well as other people. He said it was irrelevant to compare the actions of the Nazis – who started the war – with the responses of other nations.

"This has to do with our history and not that of others," he said. The ceremony was one of "remembering and mourning, not of revenge and hate," Herzog said.

"There is no other city better than Dresden from which to send this message," Herzog said.

The British duke, representing Queen Elizabeth, was among those who laid wreaths in a silent ceremony without pomp before a memorial stone at the woodland Heidefriedhof cemetery.

News agencies DRESDEN

In a simple gesture of solidarity, the top British, American and German military commanders – Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, General John Shalikashvili and General Klaus Naumann – stepped forward together to lay their wreaths and salute.

The church was once Dresden's most cherished landmark. For 50 years it was left a bombed-out ruin to serve as a reminder of the horrors of war, but now it is to be rebuilt as the most potent symbol of Dresden's own rise from the ashes.

Joachim Aris, the leader of Dresden's 90-member Jewish community, was at the cemetery. He owes his life to the Dresden firebombing.

The Nazis had ordered Aris and his whole family to go to a collection point on the night of Feb. 13, 1945 for deportation to Theresienstadt.

The bombers destroyed the Dresden train station, putting a halt to the Nazi deportation of Jews from this city. The war ended three months later.

Before the Holocaust, 6,000 Jews lived in Dresden. About 2,000 left Germany before the Nazis could get to them. Most of the rest were murdered.

After the war, Aris, his sister and their parents decided to stay in Dresden, a city they deeply love.

"I have mixed emotions about

the firebombing," Aris said. "It saved my life. But I was saddened by my city's destruction."

Many of the dead were never identified, incinerated beyond recognition in the firestorm which engulfed the city center.

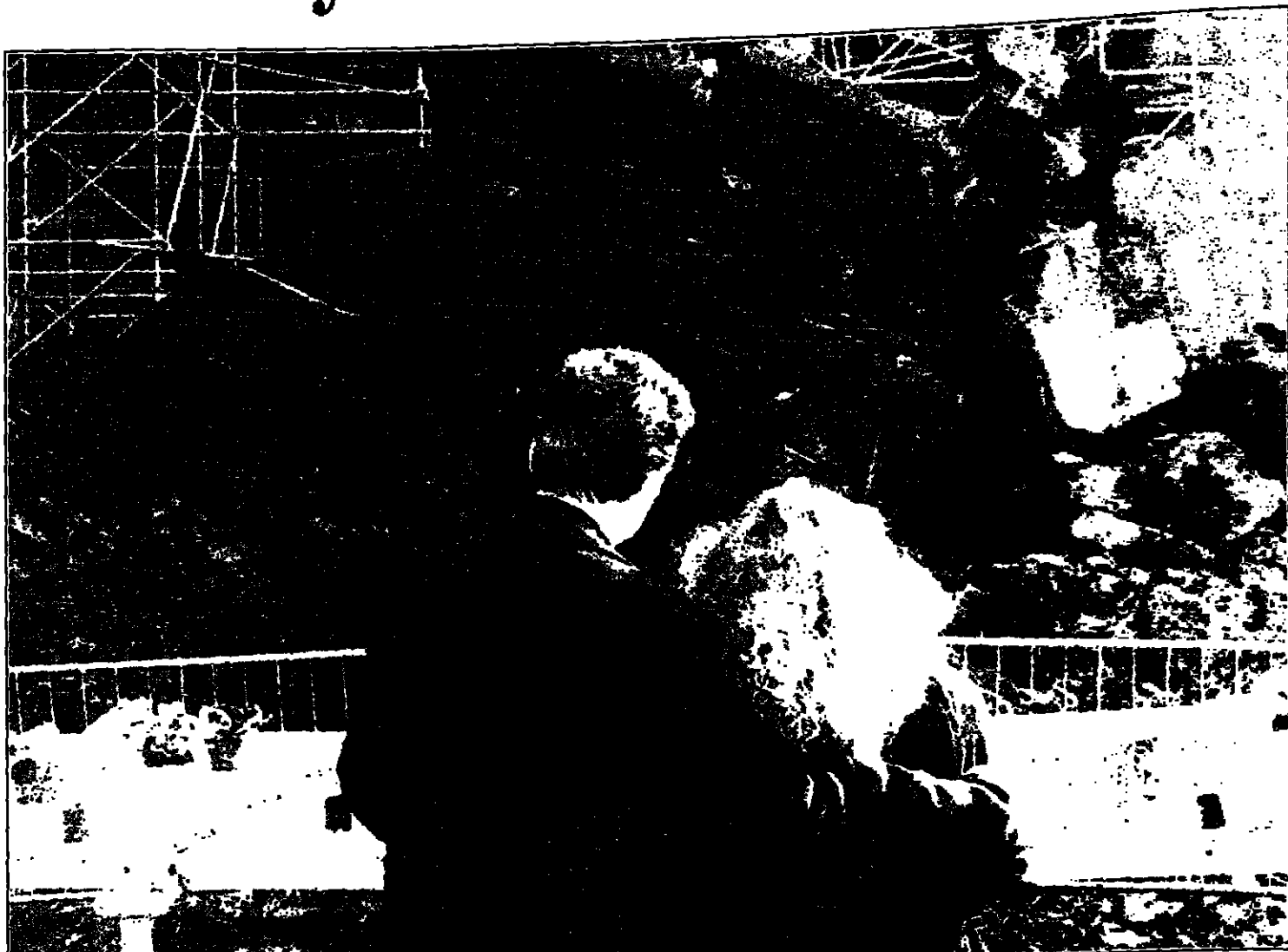
Others were among 7,000 thrown on a grisly funeral pyre in the town's Old Market Square to prevent the outbreak of disease. City authorities dismiss death tolls of over 100,000 put forward by historians such as right-wing British author David Irvine.

City archives provide proof of 25,000 deaths. Even allowing for the fact that tens of thousands of homeless refugees were in Dresden after fleeing from the Soviet advance, local historians say the total number of deaths is unlikely to exceed 35,000.

In Frankfurt-on-Oder, a court yesterday sentenced a neo-Nazi ringleader to eight years in jail for the attempted murder of a Nigerian asylum seeker.

The court in the eastern city found 24-year-old Carsten Szczepanski guilty of being the "spiritual father" of the attack in May 1992, when another neo-Nazi youth beat the Nigerian unconscious and threw him into a lake.

Prosecutors accused Szczepanski of inciting a mob to kill the African, who narrowly escaped death, shouting "Negro swine" at him. He is regarded as a leading figure in Berlin's neo-Nazi scene, organizing right-wing concerts and publishing propaganda.



A couple looks yesterday at the Church of Our Lady, destroyed during the allied air raid of Feb. 13-14, 1945. (AP)

'After Deng' reference sets Beijing abuzz

Analysts: Gov't preparing public for leader's death

BEIJING (Reuters) – An influential internal newspaper has set Beijing abuzz by printing the long-taboo words "after Deng Xiaoping" in a front-page story.

Officials and analysts said yesterday the appearance of the phrase in *Reference News* could not have been an oversight and showed the communist government to be preparing the public for the 90-year-old patriarch's death.

"This is a very clear and important signal," a central government official said.

The central government is clearly hoping to ease the Chinese public into the post-Deng period," he said.

"In my memory this is the first time that phrase has been offered so prominently to domestic readers."

Reference News, sold at many newsstands despite being a secret "internal publication," is a daily compilation of foreign news reports, many about China, prepared by the official Xinhua news agency for government officials.

By many accounts, including those of daughter Deng Rong and a doctor, Wu Jieping, the health of the retired "chief architect" of China's market reforms

has declined, fanning speculation that he may be near death.

Many Chinese say they are fascinated and frightened by the approach of what is widely seen as the death of an emperor, which could trigger a power struggle in China's leadership.

Reference News appeared to be trying to calm fears of post-Deng instability.

The words appeared in a Reuters dispatch from Washington in which President Clinton's chief China adviser Winston Lord and Lord aide Peter Tomson said a looming trade war over copyright piracy in China – and Deng's death – would not affect the basic US policy of broadly engaging Beijing.

The same holds true with respect to Deng's death.

"The United States foresees that after Deng Xiaoping there will be no major changes in US policy toward China, although pro-Taiwan moves being considered by Congress could worsen Sino-American tensions," the Chinese-language *Reference News* quoted Tomson as saying.

Reference News stopped short of a literal translation of Tomson's actual words "when ailing Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping

dies."

"This is highly unusual, but it is not the first time," said another capital resident who, like thousands of Chinese intellectuals, pores over *Reference News* every day for shifts in China's political winds.

"This shows that the preparations (for Deng's death) are basically complete. This kind of thing should not come as a surprise. It should be quite normal," he added.

It remained unclear whether Deng was at his well-guarded family mansion north of Beijing's Forbidden City or, as some sources said, being treated at the army's high-tech Number 301 Hospital, where most senior leaders are cared for.

Without top Communist Party authorization, no Chinese newspaper would dare to carry the kind of details about Deng's health that have appeared routinely in the foreign press.

In the latest such report in this week's German news weekly *Der Spiegel*, Deng's doctor was quoted as saying Deng had circulation problems and Parkinson's Disease and that his health could face a "rapid change" at any time.

'WTC bomber practiced on Philippine plane'

MANILA (AP) – The man accused of masterminding the World Trade Center bombing is suspected of planting a bomb on a Philippine airliner that killed a passenger in December. The national police chief said yesterday.

Director General Recaredo Sarmiento said the bombing, which killed a Japanese passenger, was "a dry run" for a terror campaign against US carriers in the Far East.

Ramzi Yousef, who was arrested in Pakistan and deported to the United States, also was involved in a plot to kill Pope John Paul II during his visit to Manila last month, Sarmiento said.

On Dec. 11, a bomb exploded aboard a Philippine Airlines plane from Tokyo to the central Philippine city of Cebu. The pilot landed the plane safely on Okinawa but one person was killed and five others were injured.

A Filipino Moslem extremist group claimed responsibility, but police doubt whether it was capable of carrying out the attack.

Sarmiento said the bomb was made of the same materials recovered from an apartment believed to have been rented by Yousef under the name Najji Haddad.

Balladur launches presidential campaign amid scandals

PARIS (AP) – Conservative Premier Edouard Balladur sought to bolster his presidential image yesterday, presenting his campaign platform while trying to stay aloof of infighting and scandals within his coalition.

Ten weeks ahead of the election, polls indicate Balladur leads the race to succeed Socialist Francois Mitterrand but that about half the electorate remains undecided.

In a characteristically sober, hourlong speech, Balladur described a six-point platform including more tax cuts to fight unemployment and strong monetary policy to stabilize interest rates. He also proposed limiting the presidency to one seven-year term and holding a

referendum within six months to expand civil rights but did not elaborate.

The portly, colorless but cool-headed candidate leads Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, his chief conservative rival and a more charismatic campaigner.

Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin is in a virtual dead heat with Chirac for the first round of the election April 27 but would still lose to Balladur in the second round May 7.

Standing behind a podium and before a banner both reading "Believe in France," Balladur sought to build on his 2 years in office, saying 12.6 percent unemployment has stabilized and the country was coming out of recession.

Absent were any insignia of the Rally for the Republic, the country's leading party of which Chirac and Balladur are both members. Balladur has sought to steer clear of the party rivalry and attract support from smaller parties in the coalition.

Since the Socialists were routed in March 1993 legislative elections, "France has put itself in motion again. It's time to move to high speed," Balladur told a hall of reporters and politicians at a luxury hotel.

"It's true that for 20 years our country has lived in crisis," the 65-year-old premier said. "The French have good reason to doubt. I want bring their hope back."

Winnie Mandela defends criticism of government

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) – President Nelson Mandela's estranged wife Winnie yesterday defended her criticism of South Africa's post-apartheid government, saying she never intended to insult him or embarrass his administration.

In a carefully-worded letter to the president, Winnie said remarks in which she accused the government of paying more attention to appeasing minority whites than aiding blacks were intended to highlight the grievances of most South Africans.

Mandela himself was stung by the comments made by his wife, who frequently provokes controversy and outrage but still has a huge following, particularly among poor blacks.

"I was merely trying to assure the masses that the

government and the ANC are aware of and concerned about the flaws that the government must still deal with," she said in the letter, sent to the president yesterday.

"The impression of the people is that we neither care nor know about these things. I was trying to correct that perception. If in so doing I created a different impression, that was not my intention," said the letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

Senior African National Congress (ANC) officials said earlier they expected Winnie to retract her remarks, but the letter stopped short of this. "I have always been an honest and forthright member of the ANC. I have always tried to be equally faithful to the government, and I mean to remain so," she said.

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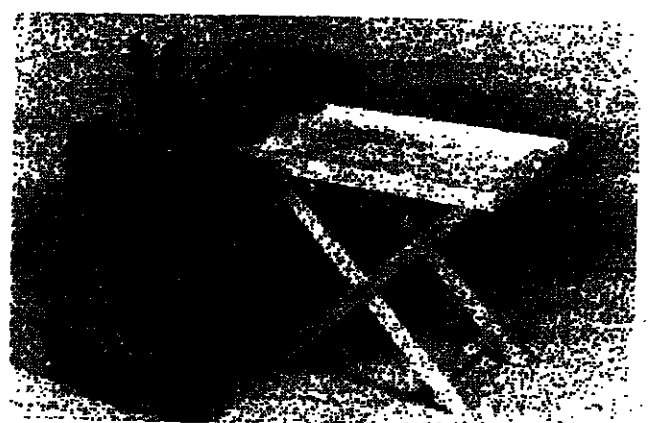
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A Tokyo department store employee holds a novel Valentine's Day present - a life insurance policy on CD-ROM. The package, sold for 5,000 yen (\$51), allows the buyer to record a brief message along with the policy. (AP)

Food situation critical in Bihac as heavy fighting blocks UN routes

SARAJEVO (AP) - With starvation looming in a besieged part of northwestern Bosnia, a UN aid agency said yesterday it will try to bring acutely needed food through an alternate route.

Heavy fighting in the so-called Bihac pocket and intransigence by besieging forces have prevented the agency from sending regular convoys to civilians now totally dependent on outside aid.

The food situation is "extremely critical," said Kris Janowski of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. "The word starvation is now appropriate."

Representatives of the Bosnian government and rebel Serbs agreed Sunday on opening new routes for humanitarian aid via the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, southeast of the Bihac enclave.

The UNHCR planned to try sending a convoy via that route today. Previously, convoys have come through Serb-held territory in Croatia and had to pass through a part of the Bihac pocket controlled by rebel Muslims. Both groups, allies of Bosnian Serbs, have halted convoys at will.

Heavy fighting raged around Bihac town, a UN-declared "safe area," on Friday and Saturday, but was quiet Sunday, UN officials said.

Continued fighting there has confounded UN efforts to secure a truce that took effect with the new year.

The UN commander in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, failed to persuade the Bosnian government army chief, Gen.

Rasim Delic, at a meeting Sunday to return to talks on consolidating the cease-fire. Delic said he would not return to talks while fighting in the Bihac area continues.

Smith was to meet Bosnian Serb commanders in their stronghold of Pale, east of Sarajevo, yesterday.

Serbs from Croatia and rebel Muslims controlling the northern part of the Bihac pocket around the town of Velika Kladusa, are not party to the truce, and have continued fighting Bosnian government forces. But the most recent fighting involved an offensive by Bosnian Serbs.

UN officials on Sunday, reported that about 1,000 Serb soldiers had crossed into the area from Croatia over the weekend.

To the east, UN officials reported sightings of planes near the airfield in government-held Tuzla.

UN spokesman Maj. Herve Gourmelon said UN military observers using night vision equipment had spotted three unidentified planes close to the airfield Sunday night. One was believed to be a Hercules cargo plane, and the others jet fighters.

"Last night we heard a lot of jet fighters flying over," said Philip Jerichow, a UN spokesman reached at Tuzla airfield, but he had no other details.

It was the second time in three days that planes were spotted in the area.

UN officials said they had informed NATO, which monitors a no-fly zone imposed over Bosnia.

21 Serbs indicted for war crimes

THE HAGUE - The UN criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia charged 21 Serbs yesterday with war crimes and crimes against humanity at the notorious Omarska prison camp in northwest Bosnia in 1992.

The tribunal said it had issued arrest warrants for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against camp commander Zeljko Meakic and 20 others.

But only one of the suspects is in custody, the Tribunal said, raising doubts as to whether the other 20 will ever be tried. Dusan Tadic is in Germany awaiting extradition to the Netherlands.

Television images of skeletal Muslim and Croat prisoners staring out from behind barbed wire fences at Omarska caused an international outcry in the summer of 1992.

"The prisoners were held under armed guard in brutal conditions. They were murdered, raped, sexually assaulted, severely beaten and otherwise mistreated," the tribunal said.

The tribunal, which expects to start holding trials this spring, is the first body of its kind since the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials after World War II.

Omarska prison camp was just one of many where prisoners of the Bosnian conflict suffered in appalling conditions.

Television images of emaciated Bosnian Muslim and Croat soldiers staring vacantly from behind barbed wire in northern Bosnia electrified world attention in August 1992.

Somewhat the evidence on screen had more impact than a report several days before by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which described conditions in Omarska.

"Guards at... Omarska... boasted they will not waste bullets on their detainees, who have no food, water or shelter and who are beaten twice a day. They will starve like animals," the UNHCR said, before the television footage appeared.

Within days the Bosnian Serb authorities, used to bad publicity but alarmed by the outcry over Omarska, announced that it and another in nearby Prijedor would close. By the end of 1992 the Manjaca and Trnopolje camps were also closed. (AP, Reuters)

UK launches study of male impotence

LONDON (Reuters) - British researchers today launch the first comprehensive study into the social, economic and medical consequences of male impotence which affects up to 45 percent of the country's males.

"At present there is considerable apathy and ignorance about the condition, which is not surprising since ED (erectile dysfunction) has only been recognized as a disease within the last 10 years," said Dr Geoff Hackett of Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield, northern England.

He will lead the 18-month survey which will include research from specialists in epidemiology, psycho-sexual medicine and health economists.

"What we are trying to communicate is that ED is a disorder that can affect males of all age groups. In about 85 percent of cases, the condition has an organic or physical element," Hackett said in a statement.

Doctors estimate that by the year 2000 over 47 million men worldwide will suffer from impotence to some degree and 15.5 million will be in Europe.

"The unseen cost in quality of life, doctor referral and in the worst instance marital breakdown is unknown," said Hackett. "We need detailed information to help us manage this condition more effectively."

Simpson, jury visit scene of crime

LOS ANGELES (AP) - O.J. Simpson lay low as jurors toured the spot where prosecutors say he slashed to death his ex-wife and a friend last June.

But he brightened as he stepped through the gates of the palatial estate where he had lived the life of a millionaire celebrity.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito allowed jurors to pass through the trophy room, but he ordered a picture of Simpson's mother removed from a bedside table, saying it had not always been there.

Ito convened the unusual, six-hour tour to let jurors see the locations pertinent to Simpson's trial for the murders of his ex-wife and Ronald Goldman.

His brief return home - and the jury's only firsthand look at the mansion - was welcomed with two lit fireplaces, fresh flowers and a Bible on the table.

"It's a beautiful house," said defense lawyer Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. "There were flowers

throughout... There were fires in the fireplaces... You had to come away with the feeling, 'Why would a guy give up all of that?'"

It was a stark contrast to the murder scene - Nicole Brown Simpson's empty home. The property is up for sale, and all furnishings and pictures have been removed.

Prosecutors argued that the homey look at Simpson's house was staged to elicit the jurors' sympathy. They objected to some of the touches, and wanted jurors kept out of the family room where Simpson keeps his trophies. "It is a shrine to the defendant," complained Deputy District Attorney Cheri Lewis.

The jurors' bus and 13 cars paused at Goldman's apartment and at Mezzaluna, the restaurant where Goldman worked and Ms. Simpson ate the night of the murders. They didn't leave the tinted-window bus until they arrived at her empty condominium.

Simpson waited in an unmarked police car around the corner as jurors walked through the murder scene in groups of four, taking copious notes. Ms. Simpson's family didn't want Simpson inside the property, and the defense said he didn't want to be there either.

Without an eyewitness to the June 12 murders, the prosecution's case has stressed circumstantial details - such as the narrow space in which the bodies were found. Goldman's body lay in an alcove near the gate that measures less than three meters square - too small for more than a single assailant, Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden said - so small that Goldman must have felt "caged" by the killer.

Cochran had a different take on the small space. "How do you have a life-and-death fight in that area and not have any bruises? The jurors had to be amazed at that," he said.

Zapatista rebels accuse Mexican army of aerial attacks

A letter from the leader of the Zapatista rebels yesterday accused the government of trying to snuff out the rebellion in southern Mexico as payback to the troubled country's financial backers.

Soldiers have been combing the jungles of southern Mexico for rebel leaders, who evidently also released a separate handwritten statement accusing the government of "forming a circle of death" around them.

The handwritten statement and the letter were sent to President Ernesto Zedillo. The two communiques are the first comment from the rebels since the army began advancing into guerrilla territory in Chiapas state on Thursday.

The statement given to journalists accused the military of aerial attacks on Friday near the rebel strongholds of Morelia and

News agencies
SAN CRISTOBAL

La Garrucha.

The government immediately denied the charge. No other new violence was reported Sunday inside rebel territory, now surrounded and invaded by thousands of government troops.

The communiqué from rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos dated Feb. 9 was sent to four Mexican publications and appeared today. Because of the remoteness of rural Chiapas rebel communiques often don't appear for several days after they are written.

It accused the government of trying to rub out the Zapatista National Liberation Army as an apparent payoff for foreign help in Mexico's recent economic crisis.

"The price of the head of the

Zapatistas is the only thing that has stayed high in the rise and fall of financial speculation," the lengthy letter said.

"Mr. Zedillo has begun the payback of the loan. His message is clear: Either speak with submission on your knees in front of the supreme government or with the support of my accomplices in Congress I will annihilate you."

In Guadalajara, the opposition National Action Party (PAN) claimed a sweeping victory early yesterday in an election for governor in the western state of Jalisco, as voters turned en masse against the long-ruling party of President Ernesto Zedillo.

Private polling firms who carried out sample surveys at voting booths during Sunday's vote said the PAN carried some 54 percent against 37 percent for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Chechens agree to heavy arms cease-fire

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Warring Russian and Chechen commanders agreed a cease-fire yesterday for heavy weapons, amid signs President Boris Yeltsin is trying to distance himself from the unpopular military operation.

The Defense Ministry said follow-up talks would seek to broaden the truce in the Kremlin's assault on the region's rebels.

Yeltsin, embroiled in controversy at home and abroad, plans a tough look at the military campaign in a keynote speech to parliament this week, Kremlin

sources said.

A ministry spokesman said the cease-fire agreement was reached in the Ingush settlement of Sleptsovsk, on the talks between the Russian commander, Colonel-General Anatoly Kulikov, and head of rebel forces, Aslan Maskhadov.

"The sun is showing us that it is time to start sowing," Kulikov said on Russian television at the start of the talks, an apparent reference to the approach of Spring.

Interfax also quoted an officer as saying the Russian army

planned to stay on in Chechnya until its troops had crushed separatists in the towns of Gudermes, Shali and Argun. The officer said plans to storm the cities had been already drawn up. If independence fighters refuse to leave their strongholds "powerful air strikes" would be launched, he said.

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Dan Raviv - TV correspondent
Ada Ravon - Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Women in Israel and member of the Executive Committee of the Labor Party

Date: Sunday, February 19, 1995
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Venue: Yad Lebanim, 147 Rehov Ahuza, Raanana
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The Washington meeting

THE tenacity and determination with which the Clinton administration is pursuing the peace process is nothing short of admirable. To witness Washington's ability to balance the wrist-slapping of its partners to the process is to appreciate Secretary of State Warren Christopher's diplomatic skills.

According to his summing up of the four-way conference in Washington, if terrorism is an impediment to peace, so is the building in Jewish settlements in the territories. And if the Palestinian Authority must do something concrete to combat terrorism, Israel must lift the closure and proceed with the next steps prescribed in the Oslo agreement. It was left to President Bill Clinton to introduce "the vision thing," as former president George Bush used to call promises of a better future. He promised to establish industrial zones in the territories, and to award them duty-free treatment.

Yet it is no more likely that Yasser Arafat will undergo a transformation at this point than it was at all the other junctures of his career. Desperate for American and European financial support, and eager to show that he can obtain something from Israel, he may indeed arrest

suspects, establish courts, try a few people - some of whom may actually be terrorists rather than his political rivals - and continue to hand over some Hamas small fry to our General Security Service. He may even be able to convince the Islamic movements that their common goal - the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territories - may be jeopardized unless there is at least an appreciable lull in their terrorist activity.

But he will not change the clauses of the Palestinian covenant which call for Israel's destruction, and he will not come out, in person, with an unequivocal declaration against the continuation of the "armed struggle," and he will not disarm the Islamic militias in Gaza and Jericho. For Palestinians it will be difficult to miss the clear message implicit in these three omissions: that terrorism must go on, while the PA does whatever is necessary to appear as if it is combating it.

Israel will have to decide if it can be satisfied with an ostentatious Palestinian show of anti-terrorist activity, or if it will insist that the PA demonstrate its good faith by eliminating these omissions.

The Agency's chairmanship

THAT no candidates of stature are available for the Jewish Agency's chairmanship is a measure of the agency's decline. What used to be considered "the presidency of the Jewish people" is now no more than a political plum. The job may still endow its holder with power over fateful decisions and huge budgets, but it no longer plays a central role in Jewish life. Perhaps that is why only two candidates are being considered for the job: one an effective if lackluster bureaucrat, the other a demagogue.

It would have been nice if internationally recognized figures like former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat or Natan Shtroum could be induced to take the job. Only a person with a towering vision and the personal prestige to match it can introduce the kind of overhaul the agency needs.

That such an overhaul is due seems clear: what used to be the pre-state shadow government must now shed all functions which wastefully duplicate those of the government, and - more important - it must meet the myriad new and old challenges with which the government is intrinsically and constitutionally unable to cope.

It is doubtful that Acting Chairman Yehiel Leket, one of the candidates, can drastically trim the bureaucratic monster the agency has become, define the crucial functions it must perform, and persuade the Diaspora leadership to support him in such tasks. It is far more likely that he will continue functioning as the faithful, efficient, and steady bureaucrat that he is, and that the agency will keep chugging along at its current pace.

Such a prospect may be less than ideal, but it is infinitely more appealing than the likely consequences of depositing the agency in the hands of an irresponsible politician like Avraham Burg, the other candidate for the job. If Burg's pronouncements are any measure of his maturity, it would be a grave error to consider him for any senior position, let alone the agency chairmanship. Speaking in Pittsburgh in November 1992 (and similarly on other

occasions), Burg characterized American contributions to Israel as wasteful, and stated, "Instead of giving money to Israel, American Jews should give it to American charities."

Burg has consistently dismissed the danger to Israel from the Arab regimes. (As one member of his American audience put it, "Listening to Mr. Burg, you'd think Israel was an evil nation, based on exterminating the Palestinian Arabs... and that the Arab states couldn't possibly be a danger to it.")

Burg has said that AIPAC is a negative force, and that Israel would be better off without it. During the Likud's rule he encouraged American Jews to criticize Israel openly, because the government doesn't heed private criticism. Calling Israel's presence in the territories "filthy and corrupting," he said he thought soldiers and officers from the "peace camp" should serve there so that when confronted by Arab rioters, "They will hesitate seven times before pulling the trigger."

But perhaps the most unacceptable of Burg's pronouncements are his remarks about the Likud. Last week he told a gathering of "the Central Way," a Labor party circle identified with Economics Minister Shimon Shetret, that "The Labor Party has abandoned the US to the extremist nationalist right of Olmert, Meridor, and Netanyahu." According to a person who was present at the meeting, he added, "Netanyahu has now embarked on a treasonous trip to the US."

One should like to hope that such expressions betray youthful rashness rather than deliberate malice. But those who have to approve the appointment of the agency's chairman must know that a political radical is the wrong man for the job. Whether a member of Labor or the Likud (or, preferably, neither), the chairman must be a unifying, conciliating force. Former chairman Simcha Dinitz was a good example of such non-partisanship. What the Jewish Agency most surely does not need at its helm is a leftist firebrand who uses polemics against the opposition reminiscent of Communist propaganda in the 1930s.



Right response to Egypt

SHLOMO GAZIT

IT was only to be expected that the unnecessary publication of the background paper by the Foreign Ministry's Political Planning Division, on the need to take punitive measures against Egypt if it continues with its antagonistic policies, would evoke anger in Cairo.

However, there is more than a little hypocrisy in those cries of indignation, and we ought to react to them without crawling to the Egyptians.

Let us not deceive ourselves: We will not be able to change Egypt's stand, which is motivated by domestic and inter-Arab considerations. But we might well remind Egypt of a few facts that form the basis of our own position.

In 1948, the Egyptian army was one of the armies that invaded this country with the intention of frustrating the establishment of the Jewish State. It penetrated deeply, reaching as far as the outskirts of Jerusalem and Ashdod.

Back then the invading Arab armies did not possess weapons of mass destruction, but their war plan certainly was one of mass destruction, aiming to crush the emerging Hebrew state before it could become a going concern.

We paid a costly price in that war, but we also learned a lesson: that, in the foreseeable future at least, Israel couldn't survive without learning how to defend itself.

The problem we now face, my Egyptian friends, isn't the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region. The real problem, as we see it, is the Arab scheme to destroy Israel as a state

and as a people.

Will we really be able to rely on the guarantees provided by the peace treaties? If only I could answer with an unequivocal yes. Why is this impossible?

About a year ago, after the Oslo agreement was signed, a Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian opinion poll was held and its re-

The real problem is the Arab scheme to destroy Israel

sults published last March in an American quarterly.

I shall limit myself to just one question and its reply. Those polled were asked: Will you continue to support peace if, in the future, geostrategic conditions should change to Israel's disadvantage? Ninety-two percent answered with an absolute negative.

A MONTH ago, the mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdel Aziz Bin-Baz, handed down a religious ruling to the effect that Islamic law does not rule out peace with Israel. However, under pressure from extreme Islamic circles, especially in Egypt, the sheikh was forced to retract.

What he had intended, he explained, was to declare that "peace with Israel is permissible only on condition that it is a temporary peace, until the Muslims build up the [military] strength

needed to expel the Jews."

And what about Egypt itself? Seventeen years have passed, and it hasn't warmed up its peace with Israel. That's convincing evidence enough of the mood in the Egyptian street. (Would an Israeli stand at the Cairo Book Fair really have posed a political or military danger to Egypt?)

Seventeen years, and President Mubarak has refrained from visiting Israel (and I regret the important attitude adopted by Jerusalem, which is virtually pleading with the president to confer this favor on us).

The important thing is the real reason for Mubarak's refusal to come to Israel: The president knows full well that such a visit wouldn't go down well with his people.

And that isn't the full list of complaints. They are our concerns today, before the political map of the region changes, before the circle of Arab countries with radical-fundamentalist regimes which blatantly deny the Zionist entity's very right to exist widens.

If Egypt and the Arab countries really want peace with Israel, we shall wholeheartedly continue along that path. But we shall insist on one condition: our retaining the ability to ensure and maintain the peace, lest we are once again exposed to the menace of annihilation.

The writer, a former IDF head of intelligence, is a senior research fellow at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

A sorry mix of messages

SHMUEL SEGEV

WHY is the Oslo agreement still not wholeheartedly supported by American Jews, and why is the Rabin government's information machine in the US so ineffective?

"We have a problem" with *hasbara* in the US, said the premier after returning from his last trip. He was referring to the counter-effort launched on Capitol Hill by Yossi Ben-Aharon, Yoram Ettinger and Yigal Carmon, regarding the possible stationing of American troops on the Golan Heights.

In the US, Shimon Peres attacked Likud Leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who, like the foreign minister, used his trip to Washington to address the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NAJCRAC), and to hold meetings on Capitol Hill and with administration officials. "It's a hutzpa," Peres said of these meetings.

Listening to Peres twice in New York recently, I came to the conclusion that Israel's *hasbara* "problem" is rooted in the government itself and in the conflicting messages it conveys.

Addressing the Presidents' Conference and later the American Friends of Haifa University for the launching of the Shimon Peres Center for the Advancement of Peace, Peres was out of focus.

It wasn't the Peres I had known for so many years - a man full of vigor and vitality, who could carry his audiences to the heights of his vision. This was an old, tired man, speaking in a monotone, trying to put across an unconvincing message.

"It appears to me Peres has lost touch with reality," a very prominent Jewish leader who generally supports the peace process and warmly endorsed the Oslo agree-

ment whispered in my ear.

And, indeed, the day Peres addressed the Presidents' Conference, an Israeli security guard was assassinated in the Gaza Strip. What the Jewish leaders had come to hear was what the Israeli government intended to do about security, where its red lines on Jerusalem were, and

The government must get its information act together

about the future of the settlements. They were disappointed.

Two days before Peres's arrival in the US, the same leaders heard an honest and convincing talk from Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, who generally supports Rabin's policies and had also agreed with President Weizman's call for a temporary suspension of talks with the PLO.

ALTHOUGH the Jewish leaders were well aware of the differences between Rabin and Peres and between Labor and the Likud, they had still expected him to address the burning issues of the moment. Instead, he again dwelt at length on the boring issue of the New Middle East.

After recalling how he was ridiculed when he suggested the Casablanca Conference and the Regional Development Bank, he explained his new idea - computerizing the education systems in the Arab world - and threw in yet another one: a regional gathering of the leaders of the three main religions. Finally, he called upon US Jewish leaders to support the

Home alone

JOYCE GABRIEL

ABSENCE makes the heart grow fonder. I've noticed this a lot this year, because my husband has been traveling more than he's done in a long time.

Okay, the first couple of nights of the weeks when he's traveling, I glory in the total silence no television can bring. There is no channel surfing to annoy me, no interruptions as I read a biography or romance novel. Just alone time, as soon as the kids are asleep.

I also enjoy the fact that the bed looks barely slept in each morning, making it a lot easier to make on the fly, before I dash off to work.

There is less laundry. No one is second guessing my way I've approached things (except for maybe my 12-year-old, but I can still silence him with a look).

But by the third day, I am lonely, missing even those frenzied mornings when my husband and I dash for his commuter train and I get to leap out of the passenger seat at the train station and run around to the driver's side fast enough so that my car doesn't get smashed or towed.

I get to the point where I would welcome a little noise from the television. And I feel I could benefit from some unasked-for advice.

It takes me longer to fall asleep, and slight noises can wake me in the night, bringing me instantly alert, because, in my husband's absence, I am the one protecting the family (with the help of the dog).

I begin to long for shirts tossed on the bedroom settee and suit jackets artfully arranged around the backs of dining room chairs - acts that usually reduce me to a snoring shrew when they actually occur.

It's sheer bliss. But by Day Three I'm longing for my husband

IT IS at this point that I realize I am truly hopeless - not that independent woman of Jane Austen novels, but a very married lady who is used to going two by two in the world.

I have no one with whom to share my experiences at the end of the day. Oh, there are phone calls, but they can only be summaries of what would be much longer conversations. And there are no hugs or kisses long-distance.

I can tell my husband has noticed the positive effects his absence can have on our relationship. I don't doubt that he sometimes contrives to travel when he doesn't really need to, just so he can leave and come home again, the returning hero.

He knows he will live in a state of grace for at least the first 24 hours, free to cruise all 67 cable channels, free to ask me to help him with his work just when I've finished with mine, with no recriminations.

I am the best of myself, smiling more than frowning, and trying to make his first night home perfect. This, I feel, is his due for having given me the pleasure of a couple of days, at the beginning of each trip, when I answer to no one and can read in the middle of the night, with the light on, without hearing any complaints.

In a couple of days, life returns to normal which, after 15 years, isn't all that bad. It's really quite pleasant, and not all that predictable.

I realize I have the best of all possible worlds, for when my husband travels it's only for a week at a time. I know lots of women whose husbands travel two to three weeks a month, leaving them to pick up the slack on home and kids. I wouldn't like that at all. But a week's absence, every six weeks or so, can be refreshing, a renewal of sorts, kind of like rearranging the furniture and seeing the living room in a whole new perspective.

Even as I'm telling him, "I'm so glad you're home," I know the next time he travels, I'll enjoy the benefits of another business trip that will take him away, just for a few days, so that I can miss him when he's gone.

(The Stamford Advocate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARAB EDUCATION

Sir, - In your *News in Brief* January 26 coverage of a press conference announcing publication of a new book on Arab education in Israel and the Mothers' School in Majd al-Krum ("Arab students show lack of motivation"), you attributed the opposite message to the women at the conference from the one they actually gave. The representative of the Mothers' School said that the main reason Arab children are not succeeding at school is the lack of opportunity for Arabs in Israel in general, and the absence of budget allocations for remedial help or vocational training in the Arab sector. The women stressed that the current Labor government has not fulfilled its promises to equalize the education budget and bring the Arab sector to a par with the Jewish sector.

Furthermore, "generating educational awareness among Arab mothers" hardly captures the widely recognized success of the Mothers' School, as related at the conference by a participating teacher. The mothers are being taught basic math and Arab language skills, and are then tutoring both their own children and other children in the school system.

Finally, the women at the conference called for much more than attitudes toward Arabs to change. They called for massive structural change in Israeli society that would allow Arab Israelis to live full, equal lives

next to their Jewish compatriots, rather than facing their present hopeless futures resulting for systematized discrimination.

JOHN TYLER

Jerusalem.

BIAS IN ARAB PRESS

Sir, - Congratulations on your February 1 article exposing the editorial in the PLO-linked *al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper which expressed support for the bombings at Beit Lid.

I closely monitor newspapers in Arab and Islamic countries and have observed that when the subject is Israel, satirical harangues are the norm. Rarely, if ever, do they publish articles supporting a lasting peace with Israel.

Unfortunately, little is written about the continuing war which is being perpetrated by the Arab media against Israel. *The Jerusalem Post* has long been aware of the importance of responding to anti-Israel bias in the press. David Bar-Ilan's superb *Eye on the Media* column is unrelenting in exposing the hostility of the Western media towards Israel. Now, as the world celebrates what it thinks is the dawn of a "New Middle East," a column with an eye on the Arab media would serve a vital purpose.

JOSEPH SCHICK

Brooklyn, N.Y.

MUBARAK'S MOTIVES

Sir, - In your article of January 31 entitled "Mubarak tries to revive Israel-PLO talks," David Makovsky states that "Foreign Ministry officials said last night they believe the favorable statement reflects Mubarak's awareness of growing criticism of Rabin in the aftermath of the Beit Lid bombing." This implies that Mr. Mubarak is guided in his actions by Israel's internal political situation. To some extent this may be true, but it is probably not his main concern.

There is in fact a much simpler explanation for Mr. Mubarak's sudden softening in his approach to Israel. Last month in Washington, the new Republican leadership announced that it would closely review foreign aid to Egypt - especially the use of this aid for military purposes. The reason given for the review was that there is concern in Washington about the less-than-supportive role for the peace process that Egypt has been playing in the past few months.

Mr. Mubarak's primary audience in his most recent moves toward Israel would appear to be Washington - not Israel. To those who have observed his behavior over the years, it seems clear that if Mubarak ever comes to feel safe in doing so, he would not hesitate to join the ranks of those who seek to destroy the State of Israel. To see him in any other light is to delude oneself with wishful thinking.

ARNOLD KISCH, MD

Jerusalem.

150 מיליון

Keitel risks his neck, career

ANGUS MACSWAN
BELGRADE

AFTER years of memorable roles co-starring as pimps, hoodlums and other unsavoury characters in which he often ended up a blood-soaked corpse, American actor Harvey Keitel is out in front.

Keitel starred in the award-winning film *The Piano* as a tattooed settler in Victorian New Zealand. He stands out among the ensemble cast of *Pulp Fiction*, the current hit from Hollywood wunderkind Quentin Tarantino.

But instead of cashing in on his success, the 55-year-old former US Marine is risking his neck filming in the war-torn Balkans on a project which is unlikely to set the box-office tills ringing in Middle America.

Next month he goes to besieged Sarajevo to shoot scenes for *The Gaze of Odysseus*, directed by Greek Theo Angelopoulos.

"It's the story of a soul's journey to redeem itself," Keitel said in an interview in Belgrade, where he received a special "Golden Locomotive" award at the International Film Festival.

He plays a director who goes to the Bosnian capital in search of a film made in the early part of the century by Milton and Janaki Manaki.

The two brothers were pioneers of Yugoslavian film who traveled through the Balkans photographing the conflicts and political turmoil of the time.

"They wound up in areas where cultures were caught in changes caused by invasion and

foreign domination and contributed to the development of awareness," he says.

The new film will reflect the current Balkan tragedy. "How does it happen? What happens that a man can shoot another man's child because they are following different religious rituals, worshipping different gods?"

"It makes you want to shoot — there you see, I've just become part of the problem."

In the past year Keitel has traversed the states emerging from

the former Yugoslavia seeking locations. They have already filmed in the Bosnian city of Mostar, scene of a barely resolved war between Moslems and Croats.

Why go to Sarajevo, still a zone of conflict between Moslems and Serbs despite the current ceasefire?

"Because it was necessary to go," he says.

Violence and mayhem is something you might assume Keitel would know all about.

He took part in the 1958 US

intervention in Lebanon as an 18-year-old marine and his characters, from Sport the pimp in *Taxi Driver* to Mr. White the bank robber in *Reservoir Dogs*, usually end up dead amid a hail of bullets.

In real life he is modest, friendly and intense but not at all sinister.

For many years he was linked to director Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro, shining but still overshadowed as his friend De Niro shot to fame in *Mean Streets* and *Taxi Driver*.

"We're in touch," he says. Lately, he's been associated with Tarantino. He was associate producer and star of *Reservoir*



Harvey Keitel's newest role brings him to the war-torn Bosnian capital of today.

Dogs, which made the young director Hollywood's hottest newcomer.

In *Pulp Fiction* he played the impeccable, supercool gentleman who cleans up the mess after an accidental killing. Tarantino, he says, is a "wonderful, exuberant, extraordinary talent. I'm looking forward with great expectations to what he's going to create."

Of his own latter-day success, he shrugs and says: "It's gratifying. But luck's a factor. Lots of people have talent, they just don't have the luck. Nothing and everything surprises me."

When it is put to him that most of his roles have been distinctly sordid characters, Keitel says: "I'm not sure I agree. I disapprove of someone being a pimp, but Sport was surviving in an environment he was born into."

"What to one is unsavoury is to another part of the soul's journey. Like Shakespeare said: 'All's well that ends well.'"

Blues that hit where it counts

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

THE blues are like reggae — those who love them turn them into a veritable religion. Then again, there are others who remain unmoved.

Eric Clapton, who introduced millions to reggae with his cover of Marley's "I Shot The Sheriff," has called bluesman Buddy Guy "living history... the consummate bluesman... the best."

He and other megastars like Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits and Bonnie Raitt went all-out in their efforts to lift Guy out of relative obscurity and into the Grammy Award-winning limelight. It is simply uncool not to like Buddy Guy. Thus I was perturbed when my gut response to the opening cuts of *Slippin' In* (Hed Arzi), his third big-time album, was "Boy, does he ever sing off-key!"

Numerous hearings later, I've come to truly appreciate the man's genius. But his legendary guitar work notwithstanding, those first vocals still jar. "I Smell Trouble" and "Please Don't Drive Me Away" start off in overdrive. Instrumentally, this is just fine, with a powerful opening kick of drum and guitar. But vocally, it's about as appealing as a would-be lover who comes on too strong.

Nonetheless, it's well worth bearing with Guy, because getting to know him is like getting to know a real person, one whom it would be a crying shame to miss.

In a taped interview, Guy, still very concerned by the relative lack of radio airtime allotted to the blues, illustrated his sense of mission: "If I can get in the door, I'm gonna take the hinges off the door. Hopefully it'll never close again." He also explained that he was not asking any of his famous white fans to guest on this album because he figures he's "big enough to stand on my own two feet."

He is. For by the third cut, the slow and scorching "7.11," he has hit his stride. Aided by Johnnie Johnson's rippling musical pi-

ano, he casts a spell, pulling us into a world which changes from song to song, a place where life takes over and things just happen. "Take me as I am," he has said, "and I'll give you all I got."

What Guy has got is an epic moving through his bones. Clapton is right when he calls him "living history." The songs on *Slippin' In* have nothing to do with the meticulous files of august archives, but they nonetheless document the feelings of a personal history in sync with the history of black America.

Born in Louisiana "where nothing is ever too spicy or too hot" in 1936, Guy grew up in cotton country where (aside from the annual Christmas feast) the only meat his people ate came from hunting raccoon and possum. Electricity was hooked up when he was 13. That year his parents' crop made them \$60 in profit and they bought a radio. "And that's the first time I heard Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, the Chess records and John Lee Hooker," Guy explains.

He migrated to Chicago on the legendary train *The City of New Orleans* in 1957 and half-starved until Muddy Waters took him under his wing. You can't find an electric blues history more authentic than the one he lived out in the clubs.

There is no narration on this album and yet the mood swings are all there. It makes one want to rush out and jump into a club scene where life, however funky out of control, is at least lived.

Among the superb, searing guitar licks that supply the roots of the rock generation's shared memory, one hears Guy whisper and plead "Hey girl" on "Little Dab-A-Doo" and strut in joyous revenge on the live and lively "Someone Else Is Steppin' In (Slippin' Out, Slippin' In)." He comes back down on "Trouble Blues," then gets downright irritated in "Don't Tell Me About the Blues." "You tell it like you're barefoot! An' you're

CASHED ORDERS



Guy's album records a sort of personal history in sync with the history of black America.

wearing those \$100 shoes!"

Guy may be looking pretty sharp in his own shiny, hot-pink suit, but he's no sell-out. The man is deep. The album ends with a tour de force, the tenderly delivered "Cities Need Help."

Guy, who now lives in suburban Chicago, wrote about what's going on in his old neighborhood. Perhaps somebody else has spelled out America's de-facto policy on what to do about inner-city blacks this clearly, but I've

never heard it: "As long as they're killin' one another/ You just leave them alone."

What more can one say? The song is a blues prophet's plea. God help the nation that dares turn away.

Dancing with Ingrid: 'Casablanca' on stage, screen

USING video with live dance on the stage has become a frequent practice here as elsewhere, but a special touch of magic in Amir Kolben's latest work came from the name *Casablanca*, made potent by snippets from the famous film.

Kolben's torrid story, however, was not about two men and a woman but two women and a man, and the novelty in this "eternal triangle" depended more on the innovative tussles of the dance than the glimpses of Ingrid Bergman's lovely and troubled face.

In fact, at the Gerard Behar Theater in Jerusalem (January 23) the screen was more a distraction from the action on the stage than an enhancement.

Kolben's choreography has always been notable for strong moves and notions, and this work was no exception. Yet the links between the film images and the stage were rather thin and not always necessary.

The performance's main merit was in the dedicated dancing and the novel use of props. There was, for instance, a large fish-shaped, filigreed trapeze that descended from the flies and served for some charmed acrobatics.

Ultimately, the emotive conceptions were over-designed and only the excellent dancing of Galit Hammi, Karen Levi and Kolben himself, with Zahar Rabinowitz as a handy assistance, kept the interest ripe.

Also, the passionate clinches

were cleverly sexy without becoming sexually brazen. The music began with what sounded like Gregorian chant and included a lot of Billie Holiday singing.

Big-name choreographer Domy Reiter-Soffer contributed to the concert held at the Tel Aviv Museum on February 6.

He set his choreographic duet to the rich and exotic *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5 of Villa-Lobos composed for soprano and eight cellos — not only the first and more famous section but also the happier, more hopeful-toned part in which the singer (the

clear-voiced Shirley Hackett) shared a tango.

The dancers were Robyn Ross and Ya'acov Vartanov (of the Bat-Dor company), and the eight cellists were led by Emanuel Gruber. The performance raised shouts of pleasure.

Something new happened at the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Neveh Tzedek (Tel Aviv) on February 7, when the Tel Aviv

Dance Theater made its debut.

Under the general title *Viva*, five choreographers and 11 dancers presented a "collage" of dance that held together in theme but was broken by swift black-outs to mark the individual contributions of the dance makers — Siki Kol (artistic director of the municipal dance school), Alon Avidon, Rina Badash, Noa Dar and Iris Lana.

The Bird celebrated in jazz and blues fest

HELEN KAYE

IT'S 40 years since the death of bebop pioneer Charlie (Bird) Parker, so the organizers of *Jazz, Blues and Videotape 1995* are dedicating this fifth festival to him.

A one-time reunion of the '70s combo, Platina, noted blues singer Jimmy Witherspoon, Shem Tov Levi and Indian drummer Vikram Ghosh are among the Israeli and foreign artists performing March 2-4 at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque.

Blues are in the festival for the first time to widen its appeal and "because they're as much the basis of today's most popular music as they are of jazz," says artistic committee member Danny Karpel, "and you can't really understand soul, rap or even some dance music unless you know the blues."

Other performers include include The Sanhedrin band who'll give the blues a rock twist, Paul Moore with blues and jazz from the 1920s through '40s and percussionist Sam Bennett, alias Koko the Clown.

Tickets at a reasonable NIS 25 to NIS 50 go on sale next week.

Tickets at a reasonable NIS 25 to NIS 50 go on sale next week.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
1	3	8	FILM SOUND TRACK	PULP FICTION
2	4	17	CRANBERRIES	NO NEED TO ARGUE
3	2	4	SHALOM NANOCH	VIOLENCE
4	1	2	AVTIPUS	THE WEATHERMAN KNOWS
5	6	71	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
6	12	16	STING	FIELDS OF GOLD
7	5	8	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT LIST 2
8	1	1	ERAN TSUR	BLIND SEAL
9	14	3	LUGIANO PAVAROTTI	PAVAROTTI AND FRIENDS
10	8	7	MASHINA	SO LONG, KIDS
11	1	2	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT BOX 7
12	11	2	NIRVANA	UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK
13	7	9	NATASHA'S FRIENDS	RADIO BLAH BLAH
14	21	3	FILM SOUND TRACK	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
15	19	4	FILM SOUND TRACK	1492

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE — re-entry

Ohel's acoustics blunt 'Concerto'

CONCERT ROUNDUP

IN the Ohel Shem hall, even the best orchestra or ensemble, instrumental or vocal, is condemned to an ordeal. Acoustics in this place are nothing less than a catastrophe. The latest victim of this old barn was the Concerto Italiano in a program of madrigals.

Musically, the Concerto and its highly competent director, Rinaldo Alessandrini, were virtually turned off. No nuances in dynamics, tone color and musical expression which the singers performed came across. The sounds actually stopped on stage.

Thus, all the efforts to give the madrigals of Monteverdi, Cipriano de Rore, Orlando di Lasso, Giaches de Wert and Luzzasco Luzzaschi meaning, expose their incredible melodiousness and portray their immense scale of emotional charge, were condemned to failure. All acoustic phenomena were devoured by the hostile acoustic environment.

Of course, we still could enjoy the excellent intonation and admire the perfect polyphonic voice leading, but emotional interpretation — such a crucial factor in the interpretation of madrigals — emerged streamlined, in a gray, monotonous uniformity.

The Ohel Shem hall should not serve as the venue for any musical performance, and Multi Media, the impresario of the concert which is part of the so-called "Authentica" series offering early music, and series advisers Tzippi Witztum and Hed Sela should demonstrate a minimum of fairness and responsibility towards artists and audiences, sparing everybody a most unpleasant embarrassment.

"Authentica" should immediately be removed from its tomb, Ohel Shem, and given a decent venue where it can flourish.

Ohel Shem Hall, Tel Aviv, February 9.

Benjamin Bar-Am

CELLIST Ina Joost's rendition of Mark Kopytman's *Kaddish* (1981) was the highlight of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's "Open Studio" concert, conducted by Alexander Livenson.

The intense involvement of her playing was its salient feature. She emphasized the lament-like character of the work's darkly resounding, low-register beginning, expressed the profound melancholy of the cadenza, vividly realized the liveliness of the *niggun*-like intermediate section, and brought it to a movingly calm, almost resigned, conclusion.

Conductor Alexander Livenson knows exactly what he wants from the orchestra and how to get it. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sinfonietta on Russian Themes* was performed with the lightheartedness

it asks for. The inevitable Korsakovian sentimentality of the slow movement and the inflated pomp toward the end were wisely controlled within supportable limits.

In Dvorak's *Golden Spinning Wheel*, a carefully calculated balance of the various instrument groups was achieved, as well as a more than common degree of transparency. A brisk tempo mercifully kept the over-lengthy work from disintegrating into its components.

Jerusalem Theater, February 7. Ury Eppstein

ONE does not hear Tchaikovsky's first symphony performed that often, but the way the Haifa Symphony Orchestra played it under the sensitive baton of Taiwanese maestro Shao-Chia Lu was reason enough for celebration.

Although this symphony, titled "Winter Dreams," lacks the power and robustness of the same composer's last three symphonies, it is a musical gem which can showcase an orchestra at its best, or worst. Here, the HSO emerged a real winner, its winds sensitive to the baton, its brass assertive yet never obtrusive and the strings lively enough.

Violinist Peter Zazofsky lovingly performed the rarely heard Nielsen violin concerto. Although Zazofsky's violin does not showcase a huge sound, its lyricism and style suited this opus to perfection.

Haifa Auditorium, February 12. Michael Aizenstadt

DOV Seltzer's warmhearted *Stempeniu* brilliantly combines Eastern European literary and musical traditions into one entity.

Stempeniu is a story of a violinist who falls in love with a married woman and woos her with music. Sholom Aleichem's story comes to life in Seltzer's Jewish drama, which features Shmuel Segal as a perfect narrator and Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra concertmaster Nital Zori in a fine performance, as the hapless musician who falls in love which cannot be required.

The Ra'anana Symphonette played brilliantly by the Ra'anana Symphonette under the baton of music director Yeruham Scharovsky.

Also on the program was the premiere of *Erga*, a suite for clarinet and orchestra on Jewish motifs, arranged and orchestrated by Guri Agmon. This new opus could definitely use some editing as it periodically gets annoyingly repetitious. Although it is far from an original piece, it is a very well written one, and was exceptionally played.

Yad Lathanim, Ra'anana, February 6. Michael Aizenstadt

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ULPAN AKIVA

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1995

Vote delayed again on ICL sale

Knesset Finance Committee awaits opinion from Turbovich

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee is delaying a vote on the sale of 24.9 percent of Israel Chemicals to Shaul Eisenberg until it sees an opinion on the sale from Supervisor of Monopolies Yoram Turbovich.

Turbovich is required to investigate every sale of a major government company to ensure that it will not create conflicts of interest or an impermissible monopoly.

Due to many MKs' concerns about the sale, reiterated during a stormy session yesterday, Turbovich's opinion has taken on special significance.

The main concern is that selling ICL to Eisenberg would concentrate too much of the economy in his hands.

Through his Israel Corporation, Eisenberg already controls a number of major local companies - including the Israel Oil Refineries, Piryon, Spectronics, Cold Storage, and Israel Shipping and Lightering.

Meanwhile, the Treasury told the committee that competitor Ted Arison is willing to raise the valuation on which his bid is based to \$926 million - \$1m. higher than the valuation on

which Eisenberg's bid is based. This would raise the value of his bid accordingly. However, though many MKs originally said they favored Arison - a foreigner with no other major interests here - this after-the-fact announcement perversely angered many MKs.

"Today is too late," said committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), who on Thursday had been one of the MKs worried about the sale to Eisenberg. "The state can't behave like a Persian market."

Therefore, he said, he has decided to vote for the sale.

Dan Tichon (Likud) echoed Gal's comment. "This is unreasonable," he said. "There was a tender, it ended, and no one can say it was improper."

However, he and other Likud MKs said they have not yet decided how to vote, and will do so only after seeing Turbovich's opinion.

Ron Nahman was the only Likud MK who said he was adamantly opposed to the sale, for fear of giving Eisenberg too much power. Meanwhile, though, the coal-



Gedalya Gal: The government can't behave like a Persian market.



Ron Nahman: Only Likud MK on record as adamantly opposed to the sale. (Elihu Harari)

tion still faces a threat from three rebellious Labor MKs - Eli Dayan, Yossi Vanunu and Shmuel Avital.

Both Vanunu and Avital, who are from the Negev, are concerned about the lack of an agreement between employees and management of ICL, which is one of the Negev's major employers. A Friday meeting among

workers, management, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish achieved nothing, Vanunu said.

Dayan, in contrast, said he opposes the sale in principle, because ICL is profitable, occupies a key place in the Negev's economy and controls too many of the country's natural resources.

Offer Brothers reach compromise on suits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Tel Aviv District Court yesterday approved Offer Brothers Properties' NIS 10.5 million compromise settlement regarding two class-action suits.

The suits were filed against the owners and directors of Cyalim - The Electric Wire & Cable Co., an Offer Brothers' subsidiary.

In October 1993, a NIS 34.2m. class-action suit was filed against the owners and directors of Cyalim by two of its public shareholders, Magen and Keshet, and attorney Hertz Kaspi.

Two months later, a NIS 9m.

class-action suit was filed against Cyalim's owners and directors by Kaspi on behalf of Ilamar Renuva, one of Cyalim's public series 4 warrant holders.

The suits stated that Cyalim's investment in Hassneh insurance company's shares in 1992 was negligent and had a damaging effect on its shareholders, the warrant holders and the company.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Eliahu Winograd approved the compromise agreement, which

remains subject to the approval of Cyalim's other shareholders. Cyalim plans to convene a general shareholders meeting in five weeks to approve the agreement.

"I'm convinced the deal is to the benefit of the company and will be approved by the shareholders," said Offer Brothers Properties chairman Yuli Ofer.

Ofer said class-action suits of this kind usually continue for at least seven years, involve costly legal expenses and take up management's time to the disadvantage of the company.

New rules for life insurance firms

JOSE ROSENFELD

LIFE insurance companies that provide with-profits policies will have to establish investment committees to manage their firm's investments, based on new regulations published yesterday by the Treasury.

According to the new rules, the board of directors of life insurance companies will have to appoint an investment committee made up of at least three people and no more than seven.

A committee with three members must have at least one outside representative, a commit-

tee with four or five members must have at least two outside representatives, and a committee with six to seven members must have at least three outside representatives.

The committee will be responsible for deciding how the insurer implements the investment policy adopted by the board of directors; to approve specific transactions and set the extent of the insurance firm's holdings of each particular security; and direct the

managing director to implement the policy adopted by the board of directors.

The committee will be required to meet at least once every two weeks.

Insurance companies will be required to vote at general meetings of firms whose shares they hold if the committee determines that proposals presented to a vote can either harm or benefit the insured.

The Treasury's new regulations are aimed at protecting the interest of policy holders.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

El-Op workers held protests for the second consecutive day yesterday after management closed the company's Ness Ziona factory last week. The demonstration, in which a dummy tank covered with signs was wheeled to the intersection next to the company's facility in the Rehovot area, was held following the receipt of appropriate permits from the central district police.

On Sunday workers staged a protest in front of the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv without obtaining a permit. Representatives of the workers committee said as soon as a permit is granted they intend to hold another protest in front of the Dan Hotel, which is owned by the Federman group, the owners of El-Op.

The Interface group, the entertainment and exposition company headed by entrepreneur Sheldon Adelson, has sold its Trade Show subsidiary to Japanese company Softbank for \$800 million. Adelson also said he intends to increase his investments here and is studying various offers in a number of fields.

The trade agreement between Israel and Jordan was one step closer to completion yesterday when the sides agreed on the rules of origin. That determines the minimum amount of local content a product must have to be considered Israeli or Jordanian to be eligible for the preferential trade terms the sides will propose.

According to Industry and Trade Ministry Foreign Trade administration director Zohar Peri, the sides agreed that products will have to consist of a minimum of 35 percent of local content. They also decided which processes the products undergo will count as substantial transformation and which will determine if the product is local or not.

Hewlett Packard president Lewis Platt will visit the country at the end of next month to explore possible investments here, the Industry and Trade Ministry reported yesterday.

Coca Cola Israel will soon begin marketing caffeine-free cola, the company's manager, Rami Shelo, announced yesterday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Maurice Saatchi, founder of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising empire but fired as its chairman, won a huge moral victory against his old firm yesterday when a court ruled he had done nothing wrong in starting a new agency. Maurice declared the ruling "wonderful" and vowed to make his new outfit "the best advertising agency in the business."

Saatchi & Saatchi had taken him to court claiming he solicited three other executives to quit and join him in his new venture. But Justice Jonathan Parker threw out the group's complaints, saying there was no evidence to support any of them. *Reuters*

Troubled British investment bank SG Warburg yesterday said chief executive Lord Cairns, the leading architect of a failed merger attempt with US rival Morgan Stanley in December, had resigned. Banking analysts said the bank, which has lost key executives recently, could face more pain before completing remedial treatment.

The merger would have created one of the most potent forces in the world of investment banking - a group worth nearly \$8 billion with a powerful presence in all major markets and a client list second to none. Cairns has been replaced by chairman and long-time Warburg executive David Scholey, who was due to retire in June.

Investment by foreigners fell 21% last year

JOSE ROSENFELD

NET investment by foreigners fell 21.1 percent last year to \$612 million due to the steep drop in foreign issues by local companies, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

Foreign issues dove 79.5% last year to \$93m. from \$454m. In 1993, as profits of foreign-traded firms grew more slowly and their share prices were depressed by the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's slump.

Despite the drop in foreigners' investments in the primary market of foreign-traded stocks, their investments jumped in the secondary market as they bought up stocks Israeli investors were selling.

This made up approximately 85% of the market value of foreign-traded stocks, excluding interest parties.

Despite the TASE's poor performance last year, foreign investors increased their investments by 18.2% over the euphoric days of 1993.

They expanded their securities portfolios by \$208m. compared with \$176m. in the previous year.

According to the Bank of Israel, the rise reflects the move of institutional investors away from investments in developed economies to investments in emerging markets as a means to achieve

higher returns. Another factor that has attracted these investors is the reduction in the country's political risk due to the peace process.

Foreigners' locally-traded stock holdings totaled \$2.4 billion at the end of last year, a 36.8% drop from 1993's holdings of \$3.8b.

About \$1.7b. was held by foreign interested parties (large shareholders) in publicly traded firms, with the remaining \$700m. held by small foreign shareholders.

Foreign interested parties' holdings fell a steep 45.2% from

\$3.1b. at the end of 1993.

They controlled 5.3% of the stock market's total value, which was \$32b. at the end of last year.

The drop mostly reflects the fall in the market's value as a result of last year's slump.

Regular foreign investors in the financial markets continued focusing on stocks, as 55% of their investment was in stocks and 41% in mutual funds.

Investments in bonds remained marginal. In addition, foreigners made \$156m. in non-financial direct investments.

Real estate investments grew a moderate 5.4% to \$155m. from \$147m. in 1993.

No more early release of inflation figures

JOSE ROSENFELD

BEGINNING tomorrow, the Central Bureau of Statistics will no longer provide top officials with an early release of the Consumer Price Index.

Until now, the prime minister, finance minister, governor of the Bank of Israel, chairman of the Histadrut and the president of the Manufacturers Association have received such an early release.

The bureau has provided the inflation figures an hour early to these five individuals to give them enough time to prepare a response by the time the figures are released to the public at 4:30 p.m. on regular business days.

The practice has raised criticism and worries that should the information get into the wrong hands, it could result in someone making a quick shekel based on the data, since the capital market is still open an hour before the CPI is announced formally.

As a result, both the bureau and the officials involved mutually agreed to stop the practice to avoid any impropriety.

Ministers approve Ciechanover as El Al chairman of the board

HAIM SHAPIRO

Rosen, and some of the others named could not serve due to a conflict of interests.

Ciechanover previously served as the managing director of PEC (Israel Economic Corporation) in New York.

The additional board members include former IAF head Amos Lapidot, a Defense Ministry adviser and head of the committee which studied the Amsterdam cargo plane disaster, and Eli Ronen, deputy director general for planning and economics in the Transport Ministry.

The board is also to include Dan Plato, the prime minister's

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday officially approved the appointment of Yosef Ciechanover as chairman of the board of El Al.

The ministers also approved six other board members.

The national airline is due to emerge from receivership today, after 13 years.

The government plans to sell over 50 percent of the company's stock on the Tel Aviv and international stock exchanges this year.

Last week Shohat and Kessar proposed a different list of board members. But the proposed chairman, Mashab head Yossi

economic adviser, Tamar Gottlieb, director of the Profina Investment Company; Environment Ministry director-general Dr. Yisrael Peleg; and Shimon Kuchinsky, director of El Al's operating budget, who will represent the company's workers.

In a related development, El Al this week signed a reservations system agreement with American Airlines.

Under the terms of the deal, El Al is to be linked with the worldwide American Airlines computerized reservations system.

This means the clients of each company can automatically be directed to flights of the other when making reservations.

Capital gears up for int'l business conference

JOSE ROSENFELD

JERUSALEM will host about 2,000 businessmen from around the world for the 36th annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which will take place April 4-6.

IDB Secretary Carlos Fernandez met with central bank officials yesterday to oversee preparations for the conference.

Dozens of finance ministers and central bank governors will participate, as well as major international financial companies - such as Merrill Lynch, Citibank, Republic Bank, Safra Bank, Solomon Brothers and Goldman Sachs.

IDB, the world's largest development bank, plans to lend \$6 billion for infrastructure, agriculture, and health projects in Latin America. Israel's membership in

the bank has opened the way to 16 local companies to participate in large projects.

Last year the bank's lending program totaled \$5.2b., with disbursements amounting to \$3.5b.

According to Fernandez, the bank is now focusing on projects to relieve poverty by improving the quality of services available in the areas of health, sanitation, education and housing.

From March 30 until the opening of the conference, IDB will sponsor youth seminars aimed at promoting youth's role in the development of Latin America.

The seminar will focus on the transition from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture based on the Israeli experience and the great potential Latin America offers.

Israel Shipyards workers step up sanctions

RACHEL NEWMAN and news agencies

ISRAEL Shipyards workers blocked the entrance to the docks yesterday morning, effectively halting work for the second consecutive day.

The Histadrut gave the workers permission to prevent the entry of 140 temporary employees to the shipyard area.

The Histadrut decided to step up action in a work dispute declared last month in preparation for next Wednesday's Knesset Finance Committee meeting to determine the terms of Israel Shipyards' sale to the SKO Car group.

The deadline passed on Sunday for the Histadrut's demand that workers retiring within the first five years of privatization receive benefits equal to those of March 1994.

On Sunday evening, workers were informed these conditions - 180 percent severance pay - would be applicable only within the first two years.

The Histadrut opposes the current sales agreement.

SKO Car will pay NIS 40.5m. for Israel Shipyards and has promised to set aside NIS 22m. for workers compensation.

The Histadrut wants a NIS 40m. compensation fund established, without which it said it cannot support privatization.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (14.2.95)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.575	5.500	5.375	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.750	4.725	4.575	
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	3.800	3.750	3.575	
U.S. dollar (\$25,000)	2.850	2.825	2.575	
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	1.900	1.875	1.500	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.2.95)				
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.2610	3.4680	2.96	3.568
U.S. dollar	2.9590	3.0352	2.54	3.0170
German mark	1.8720	2.0008	1.59	1.8684
Portug. escudo	4.6948	4.7307	4.59	4.7186
French franc	0.9881	0.9771	0.85	0.9578
Jordanian din (100)	0.2821	0.30748	0.26	0.3083
Dutch guilder	3.0221	3.0748	2.98	3.112
Swiss franc	0.9881	0.9771	0.85	0.9578
Swedish krona	0.4932	0.4939	0.40	1.7742
Norwegian krona	0.4931	0.4935	0.40	1.7520
Denmark krone	0.5006	0.5079	0.46	0.4938
Portuguese escudo	0.6412	0.6592	0.63	0.52
Canadian dollar	2.1337	2.1338	2.10	2.20
Australian dollar	2.2268	2.2812	2.15	2.38
S. African rand	0.8447	0.8938	0.74	2.2337
British pound (10)	0.5075	0.5711	0.54	0.2516
Australian dollar (10)	2.2007	2.2402	2.18	0.5828
Italian lira (1000)	1.8287	1.8628	1.75	2.8227
Jordanian din	—	—	0.18	1.3893
Swiss franc	—	—	0.82	4.44
ECU	3.7206	3.7781	4.16	0.6804
Irish punt	4.8489	4.9175	4.54	3.7455
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2654	2.2717	2.22	4.6810

Border says he was offered a bribe

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Former Australia cricket captain Allan Border said yesterday he was offered a bribe to lose a Test match against England in 1993.

Border confirmed he was offered money during the fifth Ashes Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham, but refused to discuss details surrounding the alleged incident.

In a separate development, former Test batsman Dean Jones said he was offered \$50,000 by an Indian hookmaker to reveal inside information about the Australian side during the tour to Sri Lanka in August-September 1992.

Border spoke to reporters in response to newspaper reports which alleged that an unidentified former Pakistani Test player offered him \$750,000 to throw the match.

"I was approached but I did not think much of it," Border said. "I was a bit angry at the time but I have not thought about it much since until it has come up again over the last couple of days."

The latest allegation came only two days after Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Graham Hallish confirmed that several players had experienced similar approaches during Australia's tour to Pakistan last October and November.

Responding to the allegations, International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Sir Clyde Walcott said yesterday that the matter required full investigation.

Sydney's *Telegraph Mirror* newspaper said the offer to Border was made in sterling on behalf of a Pakistani betting syndicate.

Kiwis suffer worst-ever defeat

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - Inspirational bowling by West Indies captain Courtney Walsh inflicted the worst defeat on New Zealand in its cricketing history when the team lost the second Test by an innings and 322 runs yesterday.

Resuming at 52 for three after following on 444 behind West Indies mammoth 660 for five, New Zealand collapsed to be all out for 122.

West Indies won the two-Test series 1-0 for their first series win in New Zealand since 1956. The victory avenges the 1-0 series loss in 1979-80, the last time West Indies lost a Test series against any side.

New Zealand's previous worst defeat was against Australia in Hobart in 1993 when they lost by an innings and 222.

Walsh bowled with sustained pace and hostility on a wicket which, when West Indies batted, had looked like no side could be bowled out on.

Walsh on Sunday got a record for a West Indian against New Zealand of seven for 37 and yesterday followed up that performance with six for 18. His match figures marked one of the best bowling performances by a West Indian.

Yesterday Walsh soon bowled both the overnight batsmen. Stephen Fleming went for 30 and

Darrin Murray for 43. Both were beaten for pace.

West Indies first innings 660 for five declared (Laden 181, B.L. 147, J. Murray 107 n.o.). New Zealand first innings 122.

WZ second innings (52 for three overnight): B. Young 0, Walsh 43, D. Murray 0, Walsh 43, A. Jones 0, Walsh 43, K. Rutherford 0, Walsh 43, S. Fleming 0, Walsh 43, S. Thompson 0, Walsh 43, A. Parsons 0, Walsh 43, M. Hart 0, Walsh 43, M. S. Adams 0, Walsh 43, S. Dault 0, Walsh 43, D. Morrison 0, Walsh 43, Extras 10-4, 10-2.

Fall of wickets: 1-23 3-15 4-70 5-80 6-93 7-97 8-104 9-104.

Bowling: Walsh 15.2-18-4-Benjamin 9-0-38-1 (4-4), Anderson 5-1-17-1, Dunning 12-2-49-2. Result: Win to West Indies by an innings and 322 runs. Two match series won 1-0.

Man of the match: Courtney Walsh.

West beats East in NBA All-Star tournament

PHOENIX (AP) - The West showed why it holds the balance of power in the NBA.

In a game that wasn't close after the first quarter, the Western Conference rode the shooting of Mitch Richmond on Sunday to beat the Eastern Conference 139-112.

Richmond, the Sacramento Kings star, led all scorers with 23 points on 10-for-13 shooting and took home the most valuable player award in his third All-Star game.

Even Shaquille O'Neal's first good performance as an All-Star couldn't match the West's firepower.

Utah's Karl Malone and Phoenix's Charles Barkley had 15 points apiece. Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon had 13 points and 11 rebounds. And Seattle's Gary Payton had 15 assists.

After two years of frustration, O'Neal finally had a good All-Star game, leading the East with 22 points, making 9 of 16 shots.

The East was never really in this one, falling behind by 16 at halftime.

A 3-pointer by Joe Dumars made it 79-69 with 6:18 left in the third quarter. Then O'Neal grabbed a rebound, dribbled the length of the floor and drove to the basket, drawing the foul and cutting the lead to eight.

That was as close as the East got. The West proceeded to outscore the Eastern All-Stars 25-10. Richmond led the way with 10 points, including two 3-pointers, and the West capped the spurt with 3-pointers Richmond and Delf Schrempf.

By the end of the period, the West was up 104-81, and the outcome was decided.



BEST IN THE WEST - Sacramento's Mitch Richmond displays his MVP trophy Sunday.

In the fourth quarter, things started to get ragged, not to mention downright silly.

O'Neal tried a 3-pointer and hit nothing but ... air. On the next possession, rival center Hakeem Olajuwon attempted one, too. He made his.

And during a timeout with 5:50

left, the Suns' gorilla mascot was dunking off a springboard, and Barkley wanted to join the fun. But as he took the ball in his hands, teammate Dan Majerle pulled him back, and Western Conference coach Paul Westphal came running out on the court to stop him, too.

Lethargic Maccabi scrapes by Hap Eilat

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv last night beat Hapoel Eilat 84-82 - and the narrow victory margin is understandable. The Israeli champions' thoughts were obviously far removed from Eilat's balmy weather and focused somewhere on the frozen temperatures of far-off Moscow.

Who could be expected to alternate on a mere league game (especially when a place in the league's Final Four is assured) when the European season's "game of the year" against CSKA Moscow awaits on Thursday night?

At any rate, the Maccabi squad stumbled through the motions for the first 39 minutes, mostly managing to stay ahead of their battling opponents by one or two points.

In the final 60 seconds, Eilat tied it 73-73, and Maccabi coach Muli Kazurin started to look agitated. A loss to Eilat would not, after all, be the best way to start the journey to Moscow.

However, the ubiquitous Nadya Henefeld twice took his counterpart Ayal Hsi to the basket and scored four quick points. Doron Jamchee added another two from a fastbreak and Maccabi was suddenly 79-73 ahead, its biggest lead in the game.

Eilat did not give up and Brian Rowson added three (a basket and a free throw) to make it 79-76. But it was not enough. Maccabi held out until the end with Guy Goodes and Norris Coleman adding five more to their opponents' six.

Henefeld was far and away the best on the court, scoring 21 points and pulling down seven rebounds. Jamchee was lukewarm, adding 18, while Coleman scored 15 and Radisav Curcic 12.

Certainly, Maccabi's play would not be good enough to beat CSKA, but hopefully on Thursday night things will be different.

For Eilat, Rowson made 19, Ari Rosenberg 17 and Andrew Kennedy 15.

In the only other league game played last night, Hapoel Gvat beat Beitar Ramat Gan 101-69.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pts.
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	19	2	40
2. Maccabi Ramat Gan	15	6	36
3. Hapoel Tel Aviv	14	7	35
4. Hapoel Gvat	13	8	34
5. Hapoel Haifa	13	8	34
6. Hapoel Ashdod	12	9	33
7. Hapoel Eilat	11	10	32
8. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	11	10	32
9. Hapoel Netanya	10	11	31
10. Maccabi Rishon LeZion	9	12	29
11. Hapoel Giv'at Ze'ev	8	13	28
12. Hapoel Hadera	7	14	27
13. Hapoel Ashdod	6	17	25
14. Beitar Ramat Gan	4	21	21

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER - Yesterday's results: West Ham 2, Everton 2.

NFL - Sunday's results: Edmonton 2, Anaheim 0; New Jersey 4, Florida 2; Boston 2, Buffalo 1; Los Angeles 4, Detroit 4.

BASKETBALL - The Los Angeles Dodgers yesterday announced the signing of star Japanese League pitcher Hideo Nomo to a minor league contract.

The signing makes Nomo the first Japanese-born player to join a major league team after playing professionally in Japan's Central or Pacific Leagues.

CNN Sports scores again with honest look at NBA

HOW do you like your NBA - sharp or shallow?

That's essentially the choice facing basketball fans in deciding between two NBA highlight shows currently available here, Middle East TV's *NBA Action* (Sunday nights, 9:30) and CNN's far better *This Week in the NBA* (same night, 6:30).

The main reason CNN's offering is so much better is simple: there's no NBA Entertainment Inc. trademark stamped on it, and no commercials featuring Sharon Stone, Bill Cosby, or Kermit the Frog saying how much they "love this game."

Instead, CNN's Bob Lorenz and Mike Glenn (a former pro guard) give you the latest NBA inside stuff, with a critical slant.

Sunday night, the two were in Phoenix for a pre All-Star Game special, reporting on rumors that Golden State Warriors' coach Don Nelson was about to step down, and Chicago Bulls' star Scottie Pippen might be headed to Phoenix.

They also took time out to discuss how this year's NBA slam dunk contest was just not as good as it was in the old days, with Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins no longer participating - something an NBA-sponsored highlight program would be loathe to mention.

Glenn then voiced criticism of the NBA's latest stock of young stars which the league hopes will compensate for the departure of the likes of Jordan, Larry Bird,

SPORTSWATCH

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Magic Johnson and Isaiah Thomas. Glenn said the league was thrusting new stars on fans "too quickly," adding that the Glenn Robinson Generation still needs "a little more rapport with the fans." You'd better not invite NBA Commissioner David Stern and the glib Glenn to the same party.

While Lorenz's ribbing of Glenn's somewhat limited NBA career gets tiresome at times, *This Week in the NBA* does have plenty of fun with the players, as when they caught up with Bird and Jordan at a celebrity roast for the Suns' Charles Barkley. "We're in a class he's trying to get into," quipped Air Jordan, while Bird added that if Barkley didn't get a championship this season with Phoenix, "we know where he can buy one."

Fred Hickman's profile of Pistons' All-Star rookie Grant Hill was also good, especially the opening description of the quiet, egotless star: "There's a strange aroma in the air: it smells like humility."

CNN's NBA entry also has two other nice features: the Federal Express Delivery of the Week spotlighting the best assist of the week, and *In Case You Missed It*, a clever wrap-up of the most recent regular season action. Sunday night, this included a shot of

a Portland Trail Blazers fan who looked eerily like... Judge Lance Ito.

If all you're interested in is the NBA's latest stock of highlight films, stick with METV's outdated offering. For the truth behind the tinsel, *This Week in the NBA* has the right stuff.

THE NBA All-Star game turned out to be another laughter, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't have seen it live.

While Sports Channel did offer highlights last night, it's been too long since we've seen live NBA games of any kind on Sports Channel, like Prime Sports airs in the wee hours of Friday morning.

Even ITV showed the All-Star game live when it had the NBA rights, although ITV technicians cut a tense contest off in mid-dribble one year.

It seems like we saw more live NBA action in years past, when Sports Channel and Channel Two split the NBA rights.

Sports Channel's Mylan Tanzer explained that negotiations are continuing with the NBA and arrangements could not be made in time to show the game live. He promised live NBA broadcasts as the season heads into its more important phases.

With cable fees continuing to increase throughout the country, Sports Channel owes local basketball fans a live showing of the annual showcase of the stars - and more live NBA broadcasts.

Basketball legend Nat Holman dies

Post Sports Staff and News Agencies

NEW YORK - Legendary Nat Holman, the basketball coach at City College of New York for 41 years who led his team to an unprecedented double championship in 1950, died Sunday. He was 98.

Holman died at the Hebrew Home for the Aged in the Bronx of natural causes, said his nephew, Tom Holman.

Holman was part of the Original Celtics in the 1920s, a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and a coach shadowed by a betting scandal that shook college basketball.

He also helped organize the US basketball team at the inaugural Maccabiah in 1932; a member of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame; and has a coaching school named after him at the Wingate Institute in Netanya.

Throughout his career, Holman showed a great affinity for Israel, and is credited with rising the level and popularity of basketball here.

In 1949, Holman came here to coach and left in his wake a series of coaching clinics that eventually paved the way for basketball to become an official sport.

His kept up his ties with Israel throughout his life, and in 1973 began a four-year term as president of the US Committee Sports For Israel, the organizational arm of the Maccabiah in the US.

The Nat Holman School for

Coaches and Instructors at the Wingate Institute - one of the country's foremost coaching schools - was named after Holman in 1965.

Called "Mr. Basketball," Holman was widely credited with bringing class and sophistication to the game and helped spawn the eastern style of basketball known as "The City Game."

As a player, he improvised individual moves that became the foundation for a type of basketball played in New York. As a coach, his teams at the City College of New York used this street-smart style to leap to the top of the college basketball world.

In 1949-50, Holman's CCNY team won the National Invitation Tournament and the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship, a double that has never been equaled.

But several members of that team were arrested the year after their big season for dumping games in the biggest point-shaving scandal in college basketball history.

"Nat was a great coach," said Red Holzman, who played for Holman at CCNY from 1940-42 and later coached the New York Knicks to their only two NBA titles. "He had a lot to do with the development of the game."

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Ramon sends Namir a warning: No organization tax, no COL rise

IF Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir does not sign an extension order obliging all employees to pay the organization tax, the Histadrut will sue to stop Namir from extending the Cost of Living increment to all workers, Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon said yesterday.

"There are no free lunches," Ramon said. "Whoever does not pay the organization tax, will not get the COL increment."

Namir criticized Ramon, who, she said, was making a mistake in "launching political warfare over the COL increment."

As a minister, she said, she was

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

bound by the attorney-general's legal opinion not to issue extension orders for the organization tax. Such orders would only be possible once a social rights bill is legislated, she said.

Namir stated that she had no doubt all workers will receive the COL increment due in February's pay, whether or not they pay the organization tax, since the increment is part of existing agreements between the Histadrut and the government.

Ramon said Namir's stand "will bring complete ruin to labor

relations in Israel and means the liquidation of the workers' organizations. If Namir tries to select from the work agreements only those clauses which benefit the workers, while ignoring the organization tax, we will go to court. It's all or nothing," he said.

Ramon said that the benefits the Histadrut achieved in the work agreements include, in addition to the COL increment, a shorter work-week, increased minimum wages and other pay raises reaching hundreds of shekels a month.

Labor Ministry sources said that the Histadrut's threat can only refer to the next COL increment, to be paid in August, because the February raise is anchored in existing work agreements and therefore ensured. Ramon, they said, is using the workers as hostages to pressure the government to expand the income of the Histadrut.

The sources explained that the Histadrut and the employers are now negotiating new work and COL agreements, to replace those which are about to expire, and these will determine the specifics of the next COL increment.

Labor puts sting into post of party whip

LIAT COLLINS

THE Labor faction will establish a disciplinary committee for MKs who fail to abide by party rules, it announced yesterday.

The committee is one of the provisions in the new faction house rules prepared by recently appointed faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen. Other clauses demand advance notice of all private member's bills, motions to the agenda and parliamentary questions.

Among the strict sanctions for MKs who violate these regulations are rescinding an MK's right to speak at faction meetings and rescinding the right to serve on a Knesset committee for up to one month. The suggestion to permanently rescind an appointment was not approved by the faction.

"We've taken off our military uniforms. We shouldn't be court-martialed," said MK Avigdor Kahalani, commenting on the new rules. "This is a dictatorship."

It is widely believed that the faction rules were amended to prevent Kahalani from pursuing his bill to strengthen the Golan Heights Law, as well as to prevent a repeat of what happened when former faction chairman Eli Dayan opposed the government on the Special Arrangements Law.

Kahalani also complained that Cohen had instructed the Knesset secretary to postpone discussions on his bill until the new rules come into force, despite an earlier promise to allow the Golan Heights bill to be read first.

Justice Minister David Liba'i stressed that most of the house rules being discussed already existed, although they had not always been enforced.

"We're not talking about a new regime, but there are some things that cannot be ignored. You can't leave the party whip with no means of enforcing party discipline," Liba'i said.

Kahalani said he feared the faction would try to remove him from the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee under the new rules.

"It is incredible that the faction's discipline committee will be stronger than the public which voted for its platform," he said.

He added that if the faction accepts the clause that an MK cannot submit a private member's bill without prior approval, he will petition the High Court of Justice.

Cohen responded that Kahalani had the chance to persuade the faction at its meetings on the subject and he should either convince them of his position or accept the majority vote.

Two new committees are to be established: one to approve Labor MKs' trips abroad and the other - the judicial procedure liaison committee - "to help faction members in initiatives involving personal legislation."

The rules also demand the MKs receive advance approval of the chairman before submitting a bill jointly with a member of the opposition.

This clause raised the ire of MKs working on social issues, especially women's issues. They said the chairman would be inundated with approval requests, which would delay the procedures.



Ya'acov Shmuelovitz waits in Jerusalem District Court yesterday, where he testified that former interior minister Aryeh Deri regularly received bribes from Lev Banim yeshiva officials. (Brian Hendler)

High Court stops deportation of Deri trial witness

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday issued a temporary injunction forbidding the return of Ya'acov Shmuelovitz, chief prosecution witness in the Deri trial, to Switzerland, until his petition against being sent back is heard.

The hearing will be held sometime in the next two weeks.

Shmuelovitz has been in jail in Switzerland since July, where he is being investigated for his alleged involvement in an international fraud. So far, however, he had not been indicted. The Swiss agreed to lend him to Israel for six weeks to testify against former interior minister Aryeh Deri, on condition that he be kept in jail here and be returned at the end of this period.

In the petition, attorney Ron Barnett argued that returning Shmuelovitz to Switzerland would violate Israeli extradition law, which forbids the extradition of anyone who was an Israeli citizen when the alleged crime was committed.

This is the first time such a

question has ever arisen. Barnett said: Never before has an Israeli citizen wanted for a crime abroad been lent back to Israel under the Law for Judicial Assistance to Foreign Countries.

Though Shmuelovitz signed a consent form agreeing to the deal, he claims that he agreed under duress. The petition noted that he affixed the Hebrew initials for "signed under duress" to his signature on the form, to emphasize this fact.

Furthermore, the petition said, refusing to return Shmuelovitz will not damage Israel's judicial relations with Switzerland, for two reasons. First, the Swiss, foreseeing this possibility, have already obtained Shmuelovitz's signature on a form saying he agrees to be tried in absentia.

Secondly, the petition said, the Swiss would certainly not return the wanted person if the situation were reversed, because Swiss law contains a blanket prohibition against the extradition of Swiss citizens.

Antisemitic remarks in Philippine press denounced by Manila's envoy to US

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

THE Philippine ambassador to the United States has denounced a blatantly antisemitic campaign being waged against a Jew in the Philippine press.

The target of the attacks is David Weil, who represents a number of multinational firms that supply goods to the Duty Free Philippines (DFP) stores. Weil and DFP General Manager Benjamin Lim are engaged in a bitter business dispute, whose ramifications apparently reach the highest levels of government.

Columnists in some major Filipino newspapers have entered

the dispute by focusing repeatedly on Weil's Jewishness.

A column in the *Manila Times*, considered the country's leading daily, carried the headline, "Jew-ty Free," and the writer consistently refers to Weil as "Mr. Jew-ty Free."

Another columnist, writing in the *Manila Bulletin*, quotes an unidentified reader who lambastes "this Jewish trader... and

foreigner," while a third paper refers to "a Jew named David Weil."

In response to a protest by Dr. Neil Sandberg, director of the American Jewish Committee's Pacific Rim Institute, Raul Ch. Rabe, the Philippine ambassador in Washington, wrote that since he frequently has to speak out against negative racial stereotyping of his countrymen in the United States, he is particularly sensitive to the AJC's concerns.

Rabe promised to alert government and press officials to the antisemitic attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ronen of 'Ma'ariv' released on bail

David Ronen, the *Ma'ariv* security chief, suspected of disrupting the police investigation into the paper and bribing a Bezek official, was released on bail yesterday. He was ordered to turn in his passport.

Zalman Alperon threatens suicide

Zalman Alperon, of the Alperon crime family, threatened to leap off a 30-meter high crane yesterday to protest a decision barring his jailed brothers from receiving a furlough to visit their sick father.

Police have apparently instructed the Prisons Service not to allow Ya'acov and Nissim Alperon, serving sentences for extortion and drugs offenses, out on furlough.

Zalman climbed up the crane in the southern Tel Aviv suburb of Kfar Shalem yesterday and threatened to commit suicide. After 90 minutes of negotiations with police, he was finally persuaded to come down peacefully by Ayalon police chief Dep. Cmdr. Yoram Rudman.

Israel and Germany expand pension pact

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and German Ambassador Franz Bertele this week signed an annex to the Israel-Germany Social Benefits Agreement, which will allow Israeli citizens to claim years spent in labor or concentration camps in eastern Europe to be counted towards German pensions or survivors' benefits.

It was agreed that payments to cover the periods in question would be deducted from the German income payments, so that those who are eligible will not have any out-of-pocket expenses.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, nine of hearts, king of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

'Tank thief' pleads guilty to lesser charges

ALON PINKAS

THE soldier who took a tank from the Julis base and went on a rampage near Yavne in October, pleaded guilty yesterday to several reduced charges, after his lawyer and the prosecution reached a plea bargain.

Sgt. Amit Nehemia, who, the army concluded, was subject to excessive abuse at the ordnance workshop in which he served, admitted to "causing public alarm" and "impeding the return of weapons and ammunition."

He had originally been charged with "instilling fear among the public" and "dispossessing the army of weapons and ammunition."

But he pleaded not guilty to the charge of illegal use of firearms.

During the incident, Nehemia allegedly fired his M-16 at police who were in pursuit.

The Central District Military Court is expected to reach its verdict on the firearms charge by the end of the month.

Kidnap accomplice released on bail

RAINE MARCUS

THE 16-year-old girl suspected of helping her relative, Avi Sapan, kidnap Keren Gertler and her father Asher last week was released on bail yesterday.

The girl was arrested last Thursday night by Tel Aviv's central unit detectives and was remanded Friday for eight days by a juvenile court judge.

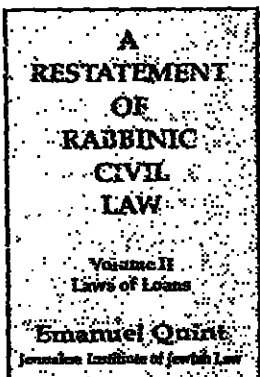
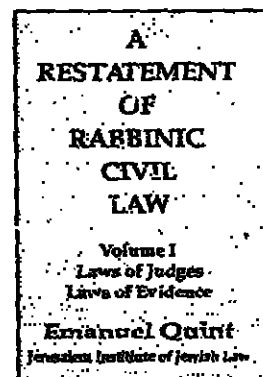
But because she has admitted her part in the kidnapping, in which Sapan was killed in a

shoot-out with police, and because detectives have completed the investigation, it was decided to release her from custody yesterday.

"She is not a criminal and was under tremendous pressure by Sapan to do what she did," Amir said yesterday. "The investigation was wrapped up quickly and police should have released her immediately."

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Ben-Yair, Ben-Menahem face off

LIAT COLLINS

DEPUTY Housing Minister Eli Ben-Menahem yesterday accused Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair of "bloodlust." Ben-Yair, in turn, claimed Ben-Menahem was interfering with judicial procedures.

The two faced off in a heated session of the Knesset House Committee. Ben-Yair wants the committee to lift Ben-Menahem's parliamentary immunity so he can face charges of attacking two

young Likud supporters at a polling station during the 1992 election.

Ben-Yair said he was "very surprised" by the new evidence collected by Tel Aviv police over the weekend. He said it had been decided to question nine new witnesses.

"You're just out for my blood," Ben-Menahem interjected.

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